

# Green Thumb News

January 2001



Denver Botanic Gardens

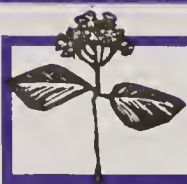
**An Exhibit of Vision**

**Cover Story on Page 10**



## INSIDE THE GARDENS

The Gardens' Update



### News from the Executive Director

The weeks of winter are energetic at Denver Botanic Gardens. The horticulture staff, who are so visible to visitors during the previous season, takes on important and exciting work of a behind-the-scenes nature. Hours are filled researching and planning new and spectacular summer displays and ordering and propagating plants. This winter, the horticulture staff has enhanced the winter beauty of the Gardens by designing stunning displays of dried flowers and arranging them in our numerous containers.

Winter is also a busy time for our Research Department. While summer consists of collecting plants, winter is consumed by recording all of the information about the plants that were collected. Even more exciting is the work that's taking place to make these plant records accessible to everyone through the Internet. This department is also updating and re-labeling the signs on the plants in our gardens.

Along those same lines, our mycolo-

gists are also steadily recording specimens that they found over the summer. It takes a lot of time to catalog all of the mushroom specimens that we keep in our herbarium, which already contains over 20,000 fungi specimens.

Not to be forgotten, our plant curators are continually updating and expanding our plant collections, including our orchid and bromeliad collections. While you can view some of these plants in Tropical Botanica, our indoor tropical paradise, the best time to see them is on a behind-the-scenes tour, which we offer at special times to our members.

When you visit Denver Botanic Gardens this winter, enjoy a brisk walk through the outdoor gardens, and then treat yourself to the warm escape of Tropical Botanica. As you reflect on the beauty of the Gardens in the winter and the wonder of tropical plants, please keep in mind the intense work that is going on behind the scenes.

*Brinsley Burbidge, Executive Director*



Prints made by geese in the snow at Chatfield Nature Preserve.



### Helping Hands Volunteers

## Volunteer Open House

Why wait to Volunteer? Come to a Volunteer Open House on Tuesday, January 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Stop in at your convenience and meet with Gardens staff and volunteers to learn about our diverse and flexible volunteer program. You can also tour Tropical Botanica and our phenomenal greenhouses. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, please call 303-370-8049.



### The Wild Side News from Chatfield

There's plenty to do at Chatfield Nature Preserve during the winter. Miles of trails that run along Deer Creek provide the perfect spot for families to learn together how to explore nature in the winter. If you look closely, you can identify deciduous trees without their leaves, or search for thorns, cones or last summer's dangling catkins as indicators of species. While you are on the trails, don't forget to look for signs of wildlife, such as rubbings on branches made by elk intent on getting rid of their antlers or prints made in the snow by geese.

It's our goal to increase educational opportunities at Chatfield Nature Preserve with some exciting new programs this year. We recently gained extra education space in a 30-foot-diameter yurt, donated generously by Advanced Canvas Designs of Montrose, CO. Please let us know what classes or field workshops you would like to attend or teach in the areas of nature, conservation or Rocky Mountain gardening, by e-mailing [sanderj@botanicgardens.org](mailto:sanderj@botanicgardens.org).

*Jackie Sanderson, Naturalist*



## Romancing the Gardens 50th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrate our 50th Anniversary and Valentine's Day on Saturday, February 10, 2001. Visitors will enjoy a day full of activities beginning with a celebration during the day that will include guided tours of Tropical Botanica, children's make-it-and-take-it activities and an unveiling of our new Education Building addition.

Learn about the cacao plant and how chocolate is made, and make your own Valentine's Day cards out of natural materials. Join us for our birthday cake and ribbon cutting, which will take place at noon in the new Education Building addition lobby. Inside, tours of our new addition and our research facilities will be available. Outside, guided tours will also be conducted, with a stop at Le Café Monet for free hot chocolate. The event will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is included with regular admission to the Gardens.

Bring your sweetheart to Denver Botanic Gardens in the evening from 7:30-10 p.m., to experience a romantic fantasy world. Enjoy champagne and fine chocolate, strolling musicians and the candlelit ambiance of the Gardens.

Roses and other romantic surprises will be provided for you and your sweetheart.

Additionally, Angela Overy will present a slide presentation in conjunction with her book, *Sex in the Garden* (pollination in the Garden). Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. For more information on either event, or to purchase tickets, call 303-370-8021.



Learn about the cacao plant and how chocolate is made at the Romancing the Gardens event.

## Celebrate Your Birthday with Ours

2001 is the year that we celebrate our 50th birthday, and yours too. For the entire year of 2001, come to the Gardens on your birthday, show valid identification, get in free and enjoy a perfect birthday in our amazing gardens.

## Blossoms of Light 2000

We hope you enjoyed your visit to the Gardens for Blossoms of Light this year. We want to extend a big thank you to our Horticulture and Maintenance Departments for their fantastic efforts. The elegant light displays and gorgeous topiary arrangements made the Gardens sparkle with a magical winter warmth. The numerous volunteers who helped run Blossoms of Light activities also deserve a round of applause.

Thank you to our 2000 sponsors, which included Presenting Sponsor Xcel Energy Foundation; Major Sponsor Subaru of America and local Denver Subaru Dealers; and Associate Sponsors *The Denver Post* and the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

Lastly, thank you to all of our members who came to visit, brought friends and family or passed along tickets. Funds raised from one month of Blossoms of Light helps the Gardens conduct conservation, education and horticulture projects for the remaining 11 months of the year. Thank you for being part of the Gardens magic.

## Potential Admission Price Changes

We are currently proposing to the City Council that our gate admission be increased \$1 on every level. This increase is still being proposed and the final decision will come from City Council. An increase in the gate admission would be beneficial for both the Gardens and our members. It would give us more money toward our education, conservation and research programs, and it would increase the value of your membership. As details unfold in this matter, we'll keep you posted.



## An Introduction to Our First 50 Years With Plants

Plants are the driving force of a botanic garden. For 50 years Denver Botanic Gardens has brought the world of plants to a community eager to enjoy their beauty and learn about their cultivation.

This ambitious adventure began in City Park, surrounding what is now the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. A master plan developed by S. R. DeBoer, Denver Landscape and City Planner, included displays of roses, lilacs, irises, ferns, crabapples, conifers, fruit trees and daylilies.

The early trustees of the Botanical Gardens Foundation of Denver led an enthusiastic and committed effort to establish the first gardens with assistance from organized plant societies and garden clubs, as well as landscape architects and designers. Their contributions of plants, expertise and labor are the roots of Denver Botanic Gardens.

The Glenmore Pinetum, one of the interesting collections planted at the City Park location, included over 200 varieties of coniferous trees. Majestic representatives of this original piece of Denver Botanic Gardens are still seen today, south of the Museum building.

Acquisition of the York Street site in 1959 opened the gates for expanded displays of plants and horticulture. The initial plantings focused on collections of roses, peonies, daylilies, irises, bulbs and annuals planted in regimented and geometric configurations. In the early 1960s, the Low-Maintenance Garden, Herb Garden and Gates Garden were introduced, bringing a greater diversity of plants in interesting settings.

With the dedication of the Boettcher Memorial Conservatory in 1966, the world of tropical and subtropical plants broadened the scope of horticulture for staff, visitors and volunteers. The tropical



Helen K. Fowler Library

The Glenmore Pinetum as pictured when planted at City Park in 1954.

display inspired new educational programs and greater volunteer participation in giving guided tours, and was recognized as the only facility of its type between St. Louis and San Francisco.

A new master plan developed by renowned landscape architect Garrett Eckbo was put in place in 1970, laying the groundwork for many notable gardens, including the Japanese Garden and the Rock Alpine Garden. The integrated design created topography and introduced waterways and walking paths that unite the numerous gardens even today.

Throughout the early 1980s the face of horticulture at the Gardens continued to evolve. Plant collections were growing and many unique gardens and displays were established. The horticulture staff also grew in order to keep pace with the expanding diversity of plants. Marnie's Pavilion provided a display for orchids and bromeliads, while the Home Demonstration Garden, Scripture Garden and Rose Garden added depth to the outdoor gardens.

25 years of progress at the York Street site was celebrated in 1983. During that year, Denver Botanic Gardens was accredited by the American Association of Museums. In that same year, the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center opened as the first facility of its kind in the United States. Here, Horticultural Therapy, which is the practice of using plants for healing, is taught to students from all over the world.

Plants and their importance to our lives is still the core of Denver Botanic Gardens' mission.

Next month we will revisit another 25 years of progress and the dramatic changes that now direct the Gardens to a future of incredible promise in fulfilling that mission.



## The Winter Botanist

The landscape of winter may appear bleak to many eyes, but for those who hold an admiration for plants, the dormant season can be as beautiful and intriguing as the full-blown summer. Lush foliage and colorful flowers are the appealing features that most often capture our attention; however, those attributes are often ephemeral, lasting only weeks or a few months at

most. This winter, take a closer look at the surrounding landscape. Your reward will be a greater appreciation of the more subtle beauty that nature bestows on the world of plants.

Many plants stripped of flowers and foliage reveal naked structure and characteristics that are visually interesting and provide identifying features. In fact, many specimens are more easily identified during the winter than when they are green and flowering. Twigs, bark, buds, leaf scars and berries are now more obvious to the eye and invite closer inspection.

Additionally, the shape and form of trees and shrubs add elegant focal accents in the winter landscape and become



*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' features dangling catkins and artistically twisted stems.

especially prominent with a snowy backdrop. The color and texture of bark varies from the black and white of the birch, to the curled and peeling bark of the paperbark maple. The handsome seed capsules of the yellowhorn tree open to show the dark brown seeds within, and ruby red berries of barberry dangle with brilliance along thorny stems.

A complement to bare but beautiful branches are the broadleaf and evergreen trees and shrubs that soften the winter scene with verdant tapestry.

The berries and cones of juniper, spruce, fir and pine are additional characteristics to observe and study, as are the persistent leaves of holly, viburnum and boxwood. Observe your garden with

new eyes this winter. You can also visit the Gardens and renew your interest in the beauty, intrigue and fascinating characteristics that make plants unique and enjoyable, even in the dead of winter.



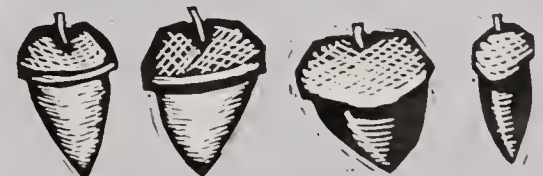
The white bark of *Betula papyrifera* is distinctive in the winter landscape.



## Winter Gardening Tips

Do you think of January as the quiet month; the month when you rest on your laurels and take a break from the garden and all that it involves? Think again! Here are a few items to work into your tranquil January schedule.

- Recycle your Christmas tree by removing the branches and using them as a sunscreen for plants on exposed and sunny slopes. Eventually the tree may be chipped and composted.
- Obtain seeds and supplies to start seeds indoors.
- Fill bird feeders as natural food sources become scarce.
- Review your garden journal and photos of last year's garden and plan changes and additions.
- Visit the Helen K. Fowler Library at Denver Botanic Gardens for information and inspiration.
- Brace yourself for the onslaught of catalogs and the overwhelming desire to grow every beautiful plant pictured.





# January

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

## January 23, New Member Reception

New members who joined the Gardens in the second half of 2000 are invited to our semi-annual New Member Reception on Tuesday, January 23, 2001 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. See page 7 for details.

## January 24, Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series: Helen Dillon: Garden Artistry

Come to this lecture and get a personal, intimate and passionate account of the pleasures of gardening in small spaces from Helen Dillon. Helen has 30 years experience in gardening in small spaces from gardening in a small townhouse in Dublin, Ireland. Helen is also a garden artist and an author of numerous books. The lecture will take place on Wednesday, January 24 at two sessions: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The cost for members is \$16 and nonmembers is \$20. For more information or to register, call 303-370-8020.

## February 10, Romancing the Gardens 50th Anniversary Celebration

Come to the Gardens on Saturday, February 10 and participate in a day full of activities celebrating our 50th Anniversary and Valentine's Day. From 9 a.m.-5 p.m., included with admission, enjoy tours of the Gardens, both inside and outside, children's activities and an introduction to the new addition to the Education Building.

## February 10, Romantic Evening

From 7:30-10 p.m., spend a romantic evening in our candlelit gardens, enjoy champagne and fine chocolate and learn about "Sex in the Garden" (pollination in the Garden), from author Angela Overly. The evening event is \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. See page 2 for more details.



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Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting

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Mile High Daylily Society meeting

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Ultra Violet Club meeting

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New Member Reception

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Volunteer Open House  
Colorado Native Plant Society meeting

## KEY FOR CALENDAR

**Bold blue type = Gardens events**

**Gardens events 303-370-8187**

**Bold type = Plant Society events**

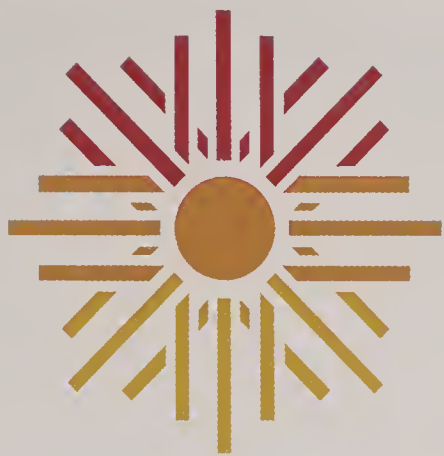
**Plant Society events 303-370-8097**

**Volunteer opportunities 303-370-8049**

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Nature Preserve

= Free to members



# Plant Select®

For the Rocky Mountain  
and Plains States

## 2001



ORANGE CARPET® California Fuchsia

Lee Klopfer





CORONADO™ Hyssop

Panayoti Kelaidis

### **CORONADO™ Hyssop**

*Agastache aurantiaca* CORONADO™



**Introduction:** Yellow, stained with orange, helmets of fiery color from midsummer to autumn frost. This silvery-leaved southwestern wildflower is intensely aromatic. Sunny, well drained sites. Perennial.

**Height:** 15" **Width:** 12"

**Blooms:** Summer to fall.

**Sun:** Full sun to partial shade.

**Soil Moisture:** Moderate watering to dry.

**Hardiness:** USDA zones 4b-8 (up to 7,000').

**Culture:** Garden loam.

### **REMEMBRANCE® Columbine**

*Aquilegia* 'Colorado Violet & White' REMEMBRANCE®

**Endorsed:** A hybrid derived from the Colorado state flower, the petals and spurs are an incredibly rich, shining violet-blue. The name honors the memory of the students and teacher of Columbine High School who shall never be forgotten. Proceeds will benefit organizations that promote diversity and tolerance in schools. Perennial.

**Height:** 14-24" **Width:** 15-18"

**Blooms:** Late spring to early summer.

**Sun:** Partial sun.

**Soil Moisture:** Moderate watering.

**Hardiness:** USDA zones 3-9 (up to 9,000').

**Culture:** Loamy, well-drained soils are best.





First Love Dianthus

Panayoti Kelaidis

### First Love Dianthus

*Dianthus* 'First Love'

**Recommended:** A clump-forming dianthus with flowers that change from pure white to deep rose. There is a constant succession of bloom from April to frost. Intensely fragrant with attractive mounds of foliage in winter. Perennial.

**Height:** 15-20" **Width:** 15"

**Blooms:** Spring to fall.

**Sun:** Sun to partial shade.

**Soil Moisture:** Moderate watering.

**Hardiness:** USDA zones 3b-9 (up to 10,000').

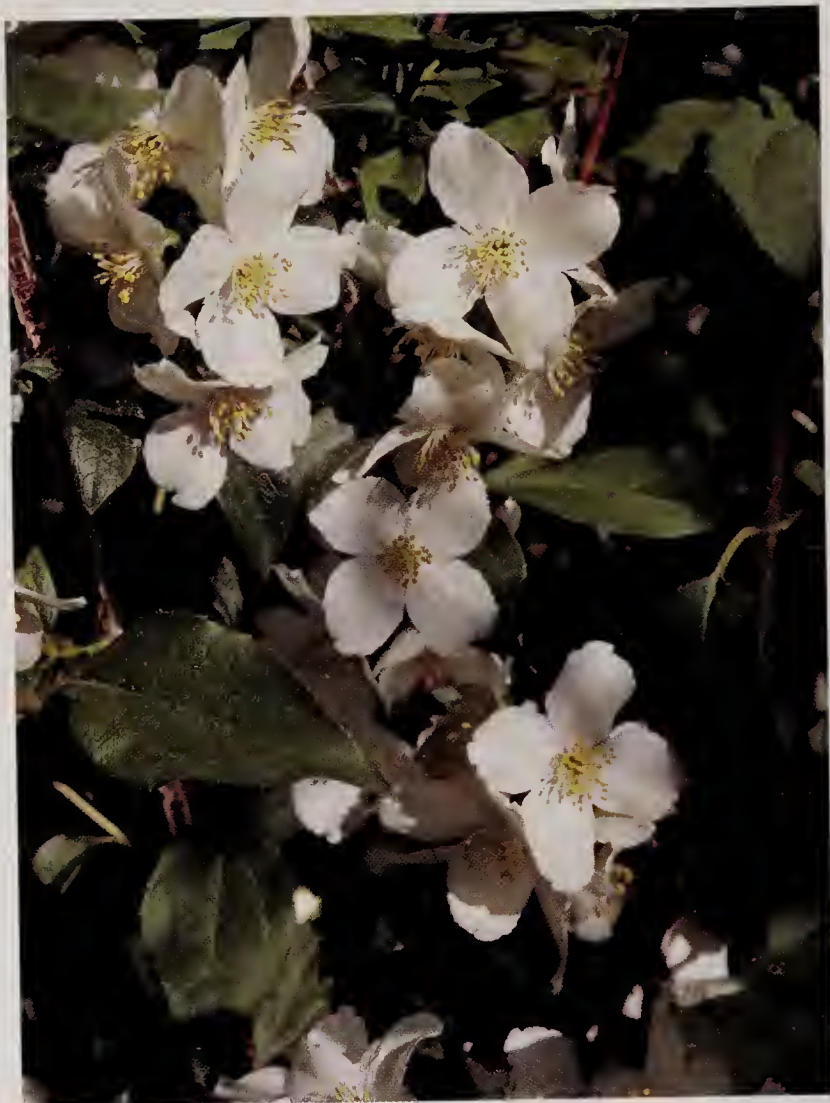
**Culture:** Ordinary garden loam.



REMEMBRANCE® Columbine

Kristy Van Koughnet





CHEYENNE™ MOCK ORANGE

James Klett

### **CHEYENNE™ Mock Orange**



*Philadelphus lewisii* CHEYENNE™

**Introduction:** This North American native forms an attractive shape in a variety of sites and soils. A selection at the USDA Field Station at Cheyenne, Wyoming, where the parent plant has formed a spectacular and carefree specimen. It has thrived over many decades there with no care. Intensely fragrant, nearly two-inch, white blooms. Shrub.

**Height:** 7'

**Width:** 6'

**Blooms:** Early summer.

**Sun:** Full sun to partial shade.

**Soil Moisture:** Moderate watering to dry.

**Hardiness:** USDA zones 3-9 (up to 8,000').

**Culture:** Ordinary or sandy loam, or dry clay.













## Plant Select®

Plant Select® is a program designed to seek out and distribute the very best plants for gardens from the high plains to the intermountain region. Plant Select® is a cooperative program administered by Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University together with landscape and nursery professionals throughout the Rocky Mountain region and beyond.



COMANCHE™ Gooseberry

Gary Epstein

### COMANCHE™ Gooseberry

*Ribes uva-crispa* 'Red Jacket' COMANCHE™

**Recommended:** Bright green leaves set off many clusters of sweet, huge, red berries in midsummer. Mounding plant with long thorns; good as a hedge. This is the original selection from England, not the selection from Canada. Powdery mildew resistant. Very hardy. Shrub.

**Height:** 2.5' **Width:** 5'

**Fruits:** Red, oval berries, 1/2" to 1" in diameter. Midsummer.

**Sun:** Full sun to partial shade.

**Soil Moisture:** Moderate watering.

**Hardiness:** USDA zones 3-9 (up to 9,000').

**Culture:** Sandy or clay loams are best.



### ORANGE CARPET® California Fuchsia

*Zauschneria garrettii* ORANGE CARPET® (Pictured on cover)

**Recommended:** Rapidly spreading ground cover with masses of orange-scarlet flowers summer to fall. A selection made from seed collected in Idaho, this is the best form of California fuchsia for high altitude or cool climate gardens. Perennial.

**Height:** 3-4" **Width:** 15-20"

**Blooms:** Mid- to late summer.

**Sun:** Full sun to partial shade.

**Soil Moisture:** Moderate watering to dry.

**Hardiness:** USDA zones 3-8 (up to 9,000').

**Culture:** Sandy soil or clay loam. Not fussy.



**DENVER GOLD™ Columbine**

*Aquilegia chrysantha* DENVER GOLD™

**Recommended:** A particularly showy race of the golden columbine of the southern Rockies. The huge yellow flowers can be over three inches across and the spurs are even longer. The plants often bloom from May to autumn frost and self sow generously. Perennial.

**Height:** 30" **Width:** 15"

**Blooms:** Late spring and heavy rebloom later.

**Sun:** Full sun to deep shade.

**Soil Moisture:** Moderate watering.

**Hardiness:** USDA zones 3-8 (up to 9,000').

**Culture:** Sandy soil or clay loam. Not fussy.



DENVER GOLD™ Columbine

Panayoti Kelaidis



Indicates a Xeriscape™ plant.

Visit the Plant Select® web site at:

**[www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/PSEL](http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/PSEL)**

**For further information contact:**

Panayoti Kelaidis  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
909 York Street  
Denver, CO 80206  
303-370-8062; Fax: 303-370-8196  
kelaidip@botanicgardens.org

Dr. James E. Klett  
Colorado State University  
Department of Horticulture &  
Landscape Architecture  
Fort Collins, CO 80523  
970-491-7179; Fax: 970-491-7745  
jeklett@lamar.colostate.edu



Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.



**Colorado  
State  
University**



WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging

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Herb Society of America meeting  
North American Rock Garden  
Society meeting

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Hi Country Judges Workshop  
African Violet Society meeting

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Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series:  
Helen Dillon: Garden Artistry

25

Ikebana International meeting  
African Violet Society meeting

26

Denver Gardener's of  
America meeting

27

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North American Rock Garden  
Society meeting





## Find the Answers to Your Gardening Woes in Our Library

Do you have a garden problem you would like to solve? Do you need to find some exciting new plants for the tropical corner of your indoor patio? Do you want to plan the design and choose the flowers for your garden this spring? These questions and many more have answers in the books, periodicals and catalogs available in our extensive Helen Fowler Library. Members have the special advantage of taking books or videos from the library home for a three-week loan period. Library hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Thursday. Be sure to bring your membership card to check out books to take home with you.



**DBG TRAVEL ADVENTURES**

### St. Louis Spring Fling April 26-29, 2001

St. Louis is rich in history and tradition. On this trip we'll visit the site of the 1904 World's Fair, St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo/Zoological Gardens, the Jefferson Memorial Building and more. We'll also tour a unique filigree design center, private homes and gardens and enjoy a tour and reception at the Missouri Botanic Gardens.

This trip is rated "easy," meaning walking tours of short duration and distance can be expected. The land-only price is \$895 per person, based on double occupancy and includes: ground transportation, lodging, most meals, activities, special receptions/tours and guiding services. A \$300 deposit is required with final payment due by February 23.

Call Pam Rathke, Travel and Tour Coordinator at 303-370-8051 for more information or to register. Check your October 2000 issue of the *Green Thumb News* for information on other Denver Botanic Gardens tour destinations, including New Zealand, Aspen, Vancouver, Italy and Kenya/Tanzania.



## New Member Reception

New members who joined the Gardens in the second half of 2000 are invited to our semi-annual New Member Reception on Tuesday, January 23, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Members will enjoy music, light refreshments and an opportunity to meet key horticulture staff members who will help answer your gardening questions. Invitations have been mailed. You must make your reservation by returning the RSVP card attached to the invitation. The deadline to RSVP is Monday, January 15. For questions, call 303-370-6674.



© Jim Havey

## Tax Deductions for 2000

The tax deduction you may take depends on the amount you paid for the membership less its "Fair Market Value." The Fair Market Value for 2000 for Gardener, Landscaper and Arbor Circle is \$10; Botanist Club is \$60; Conservator's Society is \$110; and Perennial Partners is \$213.



## Treasure Hunt for Vintage Furniture and Accessories



Hildebrand Farmhouse at Chatfield Nature Preserve.

The restoration of the Hildebrand Farm at Chatfield Nature Preserve is almost complete, and the old farmhouse looks beautiful wearing its bright coat of white paint topped off by a new shingle roof. What is missing, however, are the furnishings inside to complete the picture. We are looking for furniture and accessories from World War I to the 1930s era that might have been found in a country home such as this one. If you have any items that you would like to donate so that others can enjoy them when visiting the Hildebrand Farm, we would like to hear from you. We are looking for rugs, books, lamps, chairs, tables, pictures and even old kitchen utensils. Search the basement and the attic for any forgotten treasures and call Jennifer Darling at 303-370-8027, to donate your findings.

## Year-End Gifts Make A Difference

Thank you to all of you who made the Gardens' special year-end gift appeal a success. So many of you responded with gifts of support. With each gift, more of our gardens can be transformed into visual and interpretive masterpieces enjoyable for the whole community. Our education programs and conservation and research efforts will also be enhanced through charitable giving. We appreciate your gifts and hope you enjoy your local treasure by visiting the Gardens throughout the year.

## Correction

We would like to make a correction to an article that was published in the October issue of this newsletter, entitled "John Hickenlooper: A Terrific Supporter of Denver Botanic Gardens." The article made an erroneous statement about the number of birdhouses John donated to the Gardens. John graciously purchased six birdhouses at this year's BirdHaus Bash and donated two of them back to the Gardens for the Children's Secret Path. John is an outstanding supporter of Denver Botanic Gardens and we apologize for the incorrect information we published in the October article.

## Memorials and Tributes

### In memory of Faye Dowling

The Pepsi Center

### In memory of John C. Molt

Mr. & Mrs. Ib Falk Jorgensen

### In memory of L. Clark Tierney

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hutchinson

Mr. & Mrs. Robert K. Fuller, II

Ms. Barbara Moore Rumsey

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Bansbach, II

The David & Barbara Sheldon Family Fund

### In memory of Virginia Kerrick Morey

Mrs. Karen Morey Kennedy

### In memory of Lloyd MacKinnon

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zinn

### In memory of Mrs. James Clark Rheem

The Perennial Garden Club

Mr. & Mrs. B. K. Sweeney, Jr.

### In memory of David Drage

Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Drage

### In memory of Catherine Tholl

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Franzgrote

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Sloane

### In memory of John C. Mitchell, II

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wilfley

Mr. & Mrs. William Kurtz

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Collister

Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Kirk

Mr. & Mrs. H. C. VanSchaack, III

The Colorado Trust

Mr. Joseph G. Hodges, Jr.

Ms. Grace M. Sachtleben

Ms. Joanne L. Abbott

Ms. Margaret Wallace

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Emery

Mr. & Mrs. Hover T. Lentz

Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Koeppe

Mrs. W. Grant

Ms. Claudia B. Merthan

Ms. Syd Glick

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Donovan

Mrs. Barkley L. Clanahan

Mrs. Lila Whitbeck

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Davis

Mr. & Mrs. Bayard K. Sweeney, Jr.

Mr. Roger D. Knight, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. James Heyer

Ms. Elizabeth Stokes

Mr. William J. Hybl

Dr. & Mrs. Paul L. Earle

Mr. Newell M. Grant

Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Bonham

### In memory of Harlan Richards

Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens

### In honor of Mrs. Marion Eichberg

Mr. Robert Appel



## Explore the Possibilities

Share your love of plants with others. Interpretative guides educate children on the wonders of botany, connect seniors to flowers from their childhood, broaden the horizons of backyard gardeners and delight and enlighten visitors year-round. Tours span from balmy Tropical Botanica to the spectacular views of Mt. Goliath. Whether your passion is the natural environment of Chatfield Nature Preserve or the cultural style of Shofu-en, our Japanese Garden, there is a guide program for you.

Join us on Tuesday, January 30 in Mitchell Hall between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. for a Volunteer Open House to learn more about these exciting opportunities. Orientation and training for several of the programs will begin in mid-February. For information on the interpretative guide programs, contact Janet Laminack, by e-mailing [laminackj@botanicgardens.org](mailto:laminackj@botanicgardens.org) or by calling 303-331-5897.



©Jim Havey

You too can delight children by becoming an interpretative guide.

### Training begins this winter for these interpretative guide programs:

- Sprouts: An interactive garden experience for pre-K through grade 2 students.
- Theme tours: "Topics are Tropical Forests" and "Trees of Colorado," geared towards 3-7 graders, include a discovery center hands-on component.
- Naturalist guides: Tours of Chatfield Nature Preserve provide visitors a chance to explore native plants and animals in their habitats.
- Anniversary tour: A special program for 2001 highlighting our past 50 years.
- Ambassador guides: Address visitors' general questions throughout the Gardens.

## Become a Life-Long Learner

(Pull out that Gardens' class catalog!)

Winter is a great time to take up a new hobby or learn more about topics that intrigue you. Have you thought about turning those blossoms in your garden into a gift of honey for your friends? Sign up to take Jerry Webb's beekeeping class in February. Are you a new homeowner just waiting for spring so you can plant? A new series of classes for homeowners will help to prepare you for a yard-ful of botanical splendor with water, plant and wildlife conservation in mind. Rekindle your talents in drawing or painting by taking botanical illustration. Have a try at Bonsai, get yourself wet with a water garden or entertain pesky intruders with your cultivation of carnivorous plants. Now is the time to grab that class catalog, choose some new interests and immerse yourself in a winter of great learning opportunities. Call 303-370-8020 to register for a class or request a catalog.



Want to be a beekeeper? Take the class.



## Cover Story: An Exhibit of Vision

Past, present and future are overriding themes to an exhibit entitled “Rooted in the Past, Flowering for the Future,” that will be displayed at the Gardens beginning this month. The interpretive exhibit is comprised of 11 weatherproof panels, each strategically placed to provide a glimpse into a past view of a specific garden. The present landscape of the site lies before the viewer and the future is suggested by text.

Included in the exhibit are historical photographs similar to the one below of the Rock Alpine Garden, intended to stimulate a thought-provoking experience. Look at the historical picture below, which tells a story of large-scale vision, planning and action; the first steps to creating the now world-famous garden. When you compare this photograph with the photograph on the front cover of this newsletter, you’ll note many changes. For one thing, the ground is bare! The more recent photograph reveals the rich array of approximately 4,000 species of plants that now live in the garden. In the exhibit, the same panels that display photographs similar to the one below, also present text that, in the case of the Rock Alpine Garden, tell the timeless tale of plant exploration and collecting, as well as the significance that plant exploration plays in what plants are planted in every Colorado garden.

While a few of the panels in the “Rooted in the Past, Flowering for the Future” exhibit note permanence in the Gardens, most highlight change. Many of the changes are due to maturing plants, while other differences are due to a shift in gardening philosophies and styles. Everyone will enjoy this exhibit, which provides an engaging experience with our evolutionary gardens.

*Julie Loquidis, Interpretation Manager*



Rock Alpine Garden, 1980.

**Below are some species that we planted in our Rock Alpine Garden that you can use in your own rock garden:**

- Aethionema schistosum* – stone cress
- Aster alpinus* – alpine aster
- Aurinia saxatilis* – basket of gold
- Delosperma* spp. – hardy ice plants
- Dianthus* ‘Rose Dawn’ –  
Rose Dawn garden pink
- Linum flavum* ‘Compactum’ –  
dwarf golden flax
- Phlox subulata* – creeping phlox
- Zauschneria garrettii* ‘Orange Carpet’ –  
Orange Carpet hummingbird trumpet



**The Garden Plot**  
From the Library

## Help Us Buy New Books

The Helen Fowler Library needs your help. In May, during the Plant & Book Sale, we sell books, phonograph records and gardening magazines to raise money to buy new books, videos, tapes and CD-ROMS for our Library. In order to sell as many items as we can, we need your donations. Think of this as an opportunity to clean out your bookshelves and your old record collections. Look in the basement for those gardening magazines you meant to use but never have — we would love them! We accept most kinds of books, except Reader’s Digest Condensed books and old textbooks. Please bring your donations to the Gardens and drop them off at the main gate at 1005 York Street. If you have any questions, please call the Library at 303-370-8014.

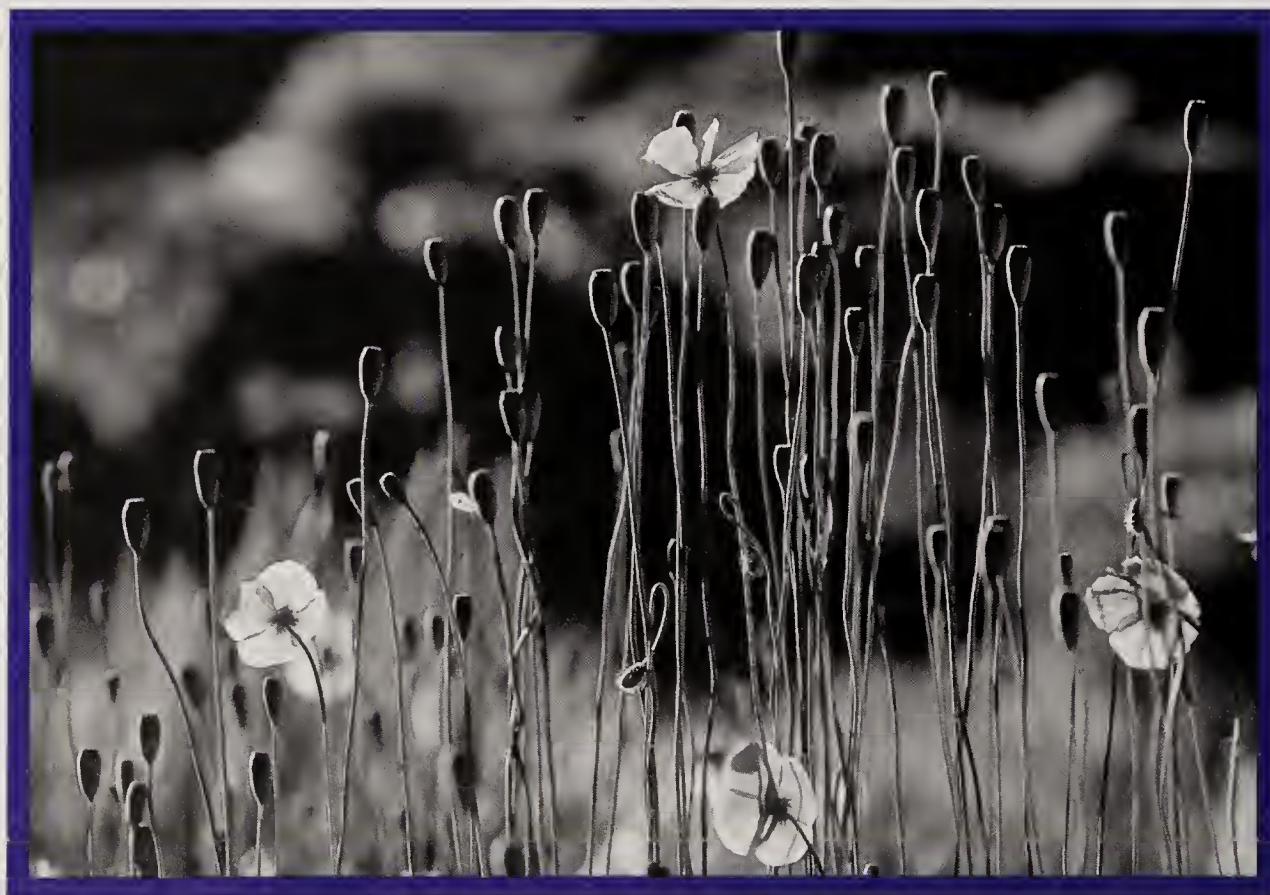
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## An Exhibit of Vision

Look for the *Papaver dubium* in the Rock Alpine Garden.

### Green Thumb News

**[www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)**

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens  
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Editor: Rachel McKinzie Designer: Julie Rudofsky

#### **October-April Hours**

Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**General information** **303-331-4000**

TDD 303-370-8032

Dr. Green plant information 303-370-8068

*Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.*

Planttalk® (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063

*recorded plant information*

Gift Shop 303-331-4009

Helen Fowler Library 303-370-8014

*Sun. through Thurs., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

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*Green Thumb News* 303-370-8022

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Membership services 303-370-8029

Security, emergencies 303-370-8017

Special events information 303-370-8187

**Chatfield Nature Preserve** **303-973-3705**

*Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

*Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

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Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Nature Preserve are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

**On the cover: Rock Alpine Garden 1997, Jim Havey**



# Green Thumb News

February 2001

Denver Botanic Gardens'  
50th Anniversary



**Winter Beauty  
at the Gardens**  
Cover Story on page 2



## Denver Botanic Gardens 50th Anniversary

Throughout 2001, Denver Botanic Gardens will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. As a cornerstone of the community, the Gardens has spearheaded a horticultural revolution and defined many of the gardening styles that characterize our region's plantings. We are excited about the future of horticulture and look forward to partnering with our friends to further develop our displays, strengthen our outreach into the community and enhance our research and conservation efforts. While the past 50 years have enabled us to build a strong reputation and base of support, the next 50 years will prove to be even more fruitful. As a friend of the Gardens, you'll be invited to several birthday celebrations throughout the year. Please watch our calendar of events for upcoming engagements.

*Jennifer Darling, Director of Development and Membership*

### Intimate Relations in the Garden

Denver Botanic Gardens is truly an urban oasis. In the middle of the city and yet away from all the traffic and stresses of everyday life, the Gardens has an exciting population of its own: plants, insects and birds. Garden enthusiasts such as Angela Overy are trying to encourage the public to see even more horticultural excellence at the Gardens. There are fascinating textures, colors and exotic flowers, but just as important, there are vital relationships that interconnect the garden with the rest of the world.

When you pick up a copy of the book, *Sex in the Garden*, by Angela Overy (in the Gift Shop), you can learn about all of these connections in a humorous and very easy-to-understand context. Angela's main goal is to create an awareness of pollinators, including butterflies, bees, flies and beetles, and their role in the survival of many plants. Some birds and insects rely on flowers for food. As they feed, plants are sometimes fertilized by an exchange of male pollen from one plant to the next. Many plants can only set seed if they have been pollinated, or more bluntly, had sex.

Plants attract birds and insects with their flowers, which can be different colors, shapes and smells, as well as bloom at various times during the day, night or season. For example, bees see yellow and blue best, while butterflies prefer a landing space with a view in all directions. Angela's message is clear, "You can help the environment and protect many plants by not killing all the bees and caterpillars in your yard. Gardens support plant and insect relationships, and you can make your own garden a haven for all these living things that need each other."

It is this inter-connection that Angela and Denver Botanic Gardens wants the public to realize. A world without pollinators would be a world in short supply of flowering plants, and a world without plants would become rapidly depleted of oxygen and all the plant-related items that we take for granted every day. Come see Angela's presentation on February 10, and let her tell you about sex—in the garden.



© Jim Havey



### Romancing the Gardens

**Sat., February 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

- Celebrate our 50th Anniversary and Valentine's Day.
- Guided tours inside Tropical Botanica and outside in the Gardens, with a stop at Le Café Monet for free hot chocolate.
- An introduction of our new Education Building addition, with birthday cake and ribbon cutting at noon.
- Children (and adults too) can learn about the cacao plant and how chocolate is made and participate in make-it-and-take-it activities, including making your own Valentine's Day cards out of natural materials.
- Daytime activities included with admission.

### Romantic Evening

**Sat., February 10, 7:30 to 10 p.m.**

- Bring your sweetheart to the Gardens for a Valentine's evening.
- Enjoy a romantic fantasy world, champagne and fine chocolate, strolling musicians and the candlelit ambiance of the outside gardens and our indoor paradise, Tropical Botanica.
- Angela Overy will present a slide presentation in conjunction with her book, *Sex in the Garden* (pollination in the garden).
- Roses and other romantic surprises will be provided for you and your sweetheart.
- Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple and can be purchased by calling 720-865-3547.



## Cover Story: Winter Beauty at the Gardens



The Gardens in winter can be breathtakingly beautiful. Stripped of its summer petals and bright colors, the garden becomes a subtle tapestry of form and texture. The branches of deciduous trees and shrubs, cloaked with frost rather than leaves, reveal a unique beauty obscured during summer. Shrub roses, cotoneasters, hawthorns and crab apples dangle their berries, now weathered to shades of maroon and russet brown.

It can be argued that ornamental grasses, which we rely upon heavily in our gardens, are as lovely now as last September. And many perennials, such as yarrow, coneflowers, globe thistle and statice, intrigue us almost as much in their freeze-dried state as they did in full flower.

Our Curator of Plant Collections, Panayoti Kelaidis, heavily endorses the Gardens' new policy of leaving perennials and even many annuals up during the winter. "It's wonderful," he tells me. "A

stroll around the Gardens this winter is an amazing experience." Here at the Gardens we appreciate plants in all stages of their life cycle and beyond; dead is beautiful. Good gardening is often about leaving plants alone. Nature doesn't weed-whack her plants to the ground each fall, and neither do we.

In anticipation of a new season, it's now time for the Gardens to get a haircut. Outside, horticulturalists take advantage of sunny days to cut plants back, exposing the crowns of perennials and letting light through to emerging bulbs. Inside the greenhouses, production of annuals, tender perennials and summer bulbs and tubers is well underway.

The transition from winter to spring starts slowly. Now is a perfect time to appreciate the last remaining elements of the winter garden and discover the first signals of the coming spring.

*Rob Proctor, Director of Horticulture*

## 50 Years and Growing

50 years ago, Denver Botanic Gardens began to grow from the aspirations of a host of volunteers with the dream of a vibrant garden serving the horticultural and botanical needs of the Rocky Mountain region. Today, the aspirations of Denver Botanic Gardens are not so different. As we enter our second half-century, we are fortunate to be able to build upon the firm foundation created by those who have preceded us.

At 50, we have an exciting and dynamic staff supplementing the host of volunteers who still help energize the institution. We are striving, as we move forward into the 21st Century, to bring into sharper focus the following:

- Excellence of Rocky Mountain horticulture, as showcased in the gardens at York Street.
- The energy of our educational programs which reach out to both youth and adults in our community to whom we can bring the excitement of exploring the plant world.
- The importance of our research activities that help bring us closer to a sustainable future.
- The significance of both our high plains environment which we are working towards bringing back to Chatfield Nature Preserve and our mountain habitats showcased on Mt. Goliath.

We encourage those in the geographic community that we serve to join with us on our exciting journey to a new beginning for our next half-century, as we strive to become the preeminent botanic garden specializing in plant environments world wide like those of our own Rocky Mountain region.

*D. Deane Hall, Chairman Planning Committee*



## Horticulture In the West



©Jim Havey

A revolution is taking place in the world of horticulture in the West, and Denver Botanic Gardens is leading the charge. Over the past 25 years, change has been ongoing as certain gardens evolved and areas were redesigned.

A noticeable shift began in the mid-1980s, with the appearance of distinctive gardens that defined and celebrated our regional sense of place, and prompted a greater awareness and appreciation of our unique high altitude climate and geography. Western gardeners were searching for identity, and we were blazing the trail.

Our path of horticulture took a regional turn in 1987 with the additions of the Laura Smith Porter Plains Garden and the Xeriscape Garden, which is now known as Dryland Mesa. The Plains Garden represents the grass communities that existed here prior to settlement by the pioneers and offers visitors the experience of the natural and subtle beauty of our region's botanic ancestry.

The Xeriscape Garden was one of the first displays of its kind in the area. The garden was constructed in cooperation with Denver Water, and showcased native and adapted plants that survive for the most part on natural rainfall. A booming population and the excessive use of water for landscape purposes was motivation for the design of this garden, which began to raise awareness about the need for conservation of this limited resource.

Colorado horticulturist and author, Lauren Springer, further enhanced our regional identity when she designed the Roads Water-Smart Garden in 1995. Her skillful and artistic combinations of plants chosen for color, texture, year-round beauty and their ability to thrive in our semi-arid environment, became a benchmark for environmentally-aware gardeners. Her partnership with Rob Proctor in the design of the O'Fallon Perennial Walk in 1997 has provided the Gardens with one of its most popular and sophisticated displays.

Rob, along with the horticulture staff, and such guest designers as Lauren Springer, Marcia Tatroe and Tom Peace, continue to work collaboratively to create dynamic gardens that visitors find exciting, inspirational and educational. Among the many new gardens, Western Panoramas, Sacred Earth (pictured at left) and the Heirloom Garden focus on regional themes that strengthen our western image.

Our collections continue to expand, bringing an ever-widening diversity of plants from all corners of the world to gardens and exhibits that represent the best in horticultural achievement. Our vision is firmly aimed toward a future of opportunity and promise; the opportunity to define our destiny as public garden with a unique western identity, and the promise of continuing to bring people together with the incredible world of plants.



©Jim Havey



## Horticultural Transformation



©Jim Havey

As Director of Horticulture, Rob Proctor and his faithful horticulture companions are transforming Denver Botanic Gardens both outside and under glass.

What are the hallmarks of Rob's style as director? Let's start with building and working alongside a team of committed and talented horticulturists who value details, as well as the big picture. Walk our gardens: dull stretches along the north shore of the large water lily pond, once lined with a few pedestrian annuals and a hedge of bridalwreath spiraeas, are now ablaze with scarlet and magenta fury as the plush Drop Dead Red Border.

The pool at the east entrance to the Rock Alpine Garden was always a problem, and the ersatz whirlpool had become a planter with soil and annuals

in despair. Now, the Mediterranean Plaza (pictured above) embraces the restored pool and features magnificent blue pots brimming with color, including chartreuse shot with crimson from daffodils and tulips in spring, through the excess glory of summer.

These are just two among dozens of vignettes Rob has created in close partnership with the horticulture staff, with an eye to turning every view and vista in the Gardens into a work of art through the seasons. If you have read his books such as *Herbs in the Garden* and *Annuals*, you know Rob loves plants for their intrinsic beauty and associations. He has demonstrated the conductor's flare for combining them in symphonies of the highest art—all in the span of a few months.

*Panayoti Kelaidis, Curator of Plant Collections*

## Donations Make Our Wishes Come True

Have you ever written down a wish list, a little sticky note that lists things that you want, but can't afford? Maybe it's a new car, or something as simple as a new pair of shoes. Our horticulture staff also has a wish list. Our wish list consists of things that will make the Gardens both more enjoyable to work in, and to visit.

### General Operations:

- Cushman cart
- Automatic fertilizer machine for pots
- Leaf shredder
- Pick-up truck
- Small chain saw
- Snow blower

### General Materials:

- Lumber for sheds, shade structures and planter boxes
- Bricks
- Flagstone
- Cedar mulch
- Artist sculptures (Children's Garden)
- Bamboo fence (Japanese Garden)

If you would like to help make these wishes come true, contact Jennifer Darling at 720-865-3511 or [darlingj@botanicgardens.org](mailto:darlingj@botanicgardens.org).





# February

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

## 2001, Free Admission on Your Birthday

Come to the Gardens on your birthday and receive free admission (valid i.d. required), in conjunction with our year-long celebration of our 50th birthday.

## Feb. 10, 50th Anniversary Celebration

Join us for a day full of events to celebrate Denver Botanic Gardens' 50th Anniversary. Enjoy tours of our new education building addition and our outdoor gardens. Children can also participate in make-it-and-take-it activities. This event takes place from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and is included with paid admission to the Gardens.

## Feb. 10, Romantic Evening in the Gardens

From 7:30-10 p.m. on February 10, experience a romantic Valentine's Day get-away in the Gardens, which will be lit with candles. Enjoy champagne and fine chocolate and get a lecture on *Sex in the Garden* (pollination in the garden), from author Angela Overy. This evening is \$30 per person or \$50 per couple.

## Feb. 27, Managing the Perennial Garden

Who ever said a perennial garden is less work? Kelly Grummons, owner of Timberline Gardens, will present a lecture, "Managing the Perennial Garden," on February 27 at 7 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Learn about planning, preparation, selecting plants and the on-going management and maintenance of perennial gardens. The cost of the lecture is \$10 for Gardens members, plant society members or Master Gardeners. Please make reservations by February 20 by calling 303-427-8132.

## Feb. 28, Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series

In this lecture, Guy Cooper will explore creative gardens conceived by gardeners driven by their dreams and fantasies. Cooper is a well-respected landscape designer and author. The lecture will be on Wednesday, February 28 for two sessions at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The cost is \$16 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. For more information or to register, call 720-865-3580

## February Gardening Tips:

- Check trees and shrubs for dead twigs and branches, crossing or rubbing branches or water sprouts. Prune to improve appearance and to allow more light for better growth
- Sow seeds indoors for vegetables, perennials, annuals and wildflowers.
- If weather permits, cut back ornamental grasses to remove previous year's growth.
- Prepare vegetable beds for planting by spading in organic matter and raking smooth.
- Remember to water trees, shrubs and borders if temperatures are above normal and precipitation is low.

4

5

6

Botanical Illustration in Watercolor I\*  
Garden Structure and Hardscape:  
Design, Layout and Detail\*  
Landscape Design Theory\*

## Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting

Horticulture Magazine Symposium  
Botanical Illustration in Colored Pencil II\*  
Birds & Berries: Landscaping for Wildlife\*  
Designing Your Home Garden: Tools and Hints\* at Chatfield

11

12

13

## Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting

Garden Club of Denver new members meeting  
Botanical Illustration in Pencil I\*  
Botanical Illustration in Colored Pencil I\*  
Mainly for Men: Making a Vegetable Bouquet\*  
Your Personal Garden: Use and Abuse of Chatfield

18

19

20

Carnivorous Plants\*  
Designing Your Garden II: Texture and Color\*

Botanical Illustration in Colored Pencil I\*  
Botanical Illustration in Watercolor II\*

## Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting

## KEY FOR CALENDAR

**Bold yellow type = Gardens events**  
**Gardens events 720-865-3544**


**Bold type = Plant Society events**

**Plant Society events 720-865-3639**

**Volunteer opportunities 720-865-3560**

Regular black type = Classes

Chatfield = Chatfield Nature Preserve

 = Free to members

25

Angelica to Yarrow: The Basics of Growing Herbs\*

26

**Ultra Violet Club meeting**  
Introduction to Landscape Graphics\*  
Garden Design for Novices\*

27

## Lecture: Managing the Perennial Garden

**Colorado Native Plant Society meeting**  
Living with Wildlife in Your Garden at Chatfield

\* Preregistration is required for all classes. Call 720-865-3580.




# WEDNESDAY

# THURSDAY

# FRIDAY

# SATURDAY

1

**1-3/31 "Women of Flowers" Exhibit**   
 1-21 Travel Adventure:  
 New Zealand & Tahiti Explorer\*  
 Botanical Illustration in Pen & Ink II\*  
 Botany for the Botanical Illustrator\*  
 Basic Drawing with Mixed Media\*  
 Beginning Bonsai\*  
 Aromatherapy Part IV\* at Chatfield

2

**Free Day and Drop-in Tour**  
 at Chatfield  
 Watercolor Painting\*



3

**Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers mtg.**  
 Botanical Illustration in Watercolor I\*  
 Pampering Herbal Gifts for  
 Your Valentine\*  
 Basics of Beekeeping\* at Chatfield

7

The Perennial Advantage: Part I\*


8

Aromatherapy Part V\* at Chatfield

9

Watercolor Painting\*

10

**Romancing the Gardens 50th Anniversary Celebration**   
**Romantic Evening in the Gardens**  
**Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging**  
**Region meeting**  
**Denver Rose Society meeting**  
 The Perennial Border: Design  
 and Planting\*  
 Designing Your Garden I:  
 Structural Elements\*

14

Pastel Painting in the Gardens\*

15

**Guide Training and Orientation**  
**(call 720-865-3580 to register)**  
 Guide Orientation Training\*

16

17

Your First Water Garden:  
 Small Containers\*

21

**North American Rock Garden**  
**Society meeting**  
**Herb Society of America meeting**

22

**Denver Gardener's of America mtg.**  
 Botanical Illustration in Pen & Ink I\*  
 Soapmaking\* at Chatfield

23

24

Principles of Pruning\*  
 All Natural Face and Skin Care\*  
 Natural Soap\*  
 Western Slope Wildflowers\*

28

**Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series:**  
**Guy Cooper: Gardens of**  
**Obsession — Eccentric and**  
**Extravagant Visions**  
**African Violet Society of Denver**  
**meeting**  
 Perennial Advantage: Part II\*

29





## A New Center for Research

Our Research Department is now relocated in the lower level of the new addition to the Education Building. For the first time, the entire department, including the Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium of vascular plants, the Herbarium of Fungi and the staff offices, are together in a central location.

We are thrilled with the new space and the improved accessibility to the specimens of both herbaria. The more efficient space is proving invaluable as we continue to work on digital images of the living collections and herbarium specimens, as well as the Collections Database that appears on our Web site at [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org).

Although much of the work of the Research Department is done behind the scenes or in the field, this new location gives herbaria collections greater visibility here at the Gardens. The future is indeed exciting as we focus on the restoration of prairie habitat at Chatfield Nature Preserve, the conservation of endangered species at Rocky Mountain National Park and the development of our collections.

Carol Dawson, Director of Research

## Accessions: Old and New

Plants are important landmarks of the Gardens. Would you have guessed that our oldest plant still living is *Pilea cadieri*? A cutting of this aluminum plant was given to us in 1964 from the Missouri Botanical Gardens, in anticipation of the opening of our new conservatory. All these years we have continued to propagate this common houseplant by cuttings. We have even passed a piece of our history on to our members, as it is often a new member plant.

The oldest accessions (plants recorded) outside are two firs in the Woodland Mosaic Garden. Planted in 1967, they can still be found along the south wall of that garden. One is a cultivated variety of fastigate white fir (*Abies concolor* 'Fastigiata'), and the other is a Nikko pine (*Abies homolepis*). The white fir is a native to Colorado and is doing well. The Nikko pine is native to Japan and was an experimental planting.

The newest accession is Iris 'Harmony' [Reticulata Group]. According to the book, *The Iris*, by Brian Matthew (1981, Timber Press, Portland, Ore.), reticulata irises cover about 10



species that come from Turkey, the Caucasus, Iran and Russian Central Asia. This accession is planted at the Morrison Center in the new border in front of the greenhouse. It should bloom this February or March depending on our fickle Colorado weather. I. 'Harmony' is fragrant with beautiful, "bluebird-blue" petals. It's an appropriate symbol of our future. This plant is well adapted to our climate, stretches the vision of the Colorado growing season and is a delightful addition to any garden.

Even more forward looking is our latest seed accession, *Anthemis marschalliana* subsp. *sosnowskyana*. It was collected in the Caucasus, which is the center of diversity for the genera *Tanacetum* and *Anthemis*. We have tried to grow *A. rudolfiana* before, but it was difficult and the plant was not as successful as we anticipated. Now, we are trying it again from a different seed source in hopes that we will get a better plant. Just imagine, this might be a Plant Select plant of 2010.

Susan Eubank, Senior Librarian



## Expansions at the Gardens

Denver Botanic Gardens is moving into the new millennium with exciting developments on the horizon. We bring our rich history forward with us into the future and in fact, have centered some of our recent expansions on it: the Boettcher Memorial Conservatory and the Education Building.

Boettcher Memorial Conservatory was dedicated and opened to the public on January 16, 1966. It was an unusual and unique structure for its time. It's also the only enclosed conservatory between St. Louis and the west coast, and the only U.S. conservatory featuring cast-in-place concrete. The conservatory received an award from the American Institute of Architects of Colorado in 1996 for an outstanding building that has stood the test of time.

The conservatory became a National Historical Landmark on November 8, 1973. The idea of displaying tropical plants in the conservatory began in 1966, primarily as an aesthetic consideration, but with the accelerated crisis in the loss of biodiversity in the tropics, the significance of this display has greatly magnified. In 1998, the conservatory was renovated to feature the Tropical Botanica exhibit, encompassing 13,000 square feet. Currently, the conservatory has 787 live accessions that are made up of 302 genera and 577 species.

The Education Building opened March 6, 1971, and fulfilled our mission to become a complete center for plant study. Denver Botanic Gardens just finished an expansion to the Education Building that gives us more space for our key program areas. The newly expanded garden level houses the Research Department. The Education Department is located on the second floor of the addition, and a new horticulture display has been added in the Gates Garden Court.

I am incredibly excited about the addition to the Education Building. It allows us even more ability to educate the public about the important role that plants play in our everyday lives, true to the plan made 50 years ago when we first opened our gates. As we move into 2001, we applaud Denver Botanic Gardens for 50 years of expansion and education, and look forward to 50 more.

*Joe Duran, Chief Financial Officer*

## Thanks for Outreach and Operations Support

One of our main goals is to get even more involved with the community. Thanks to a grant contributed by the Sam S. Bloom Foundation, we will be able to continue another year of one of our outreach programs. This particular program assists at-risk youth by bringing them to the Gardens to work with us; teaching them how to garden and interact with nature. Additionally, we'd like to thank the Hewitt Family Foundation and the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation for the gifts they contributed to go toward our general operations, which includes projects like community outreach.

## Women of Flowers Exhibit

When you visit the new addition to our Education Building, look for the "Women of Flowers" exhibit. This antique, botanical illustration exhibit consists of 32 hand-colored plates, borrowed from the library of Jack Kramer. Kramer is a renowned garden writer and author of the book, *Women of Flowers: A Tribute to Victorian Women Illustrators*.

The book and the exhibit cover the work of women botanical illustrators from the 1700-1900s. Their work was crucial to the collection and classification of the world's plants. According to Kramer, the book and exhibit provide a platform for long, overdue recognition of these forgotten women artists. We are excited to showcase the exhibit, which runs from February 1 through March 31, and is included with admission to the Gardens.



*The Autumn Garden, 1855, Jane Webb Loudon. My Own Garden Series.*



## Escape to Vancouver

Just mention British Columbia, and flowers and gardens come immediately to mind. What better place to escape the dusty doldrums of late summer here, than to relax with a cool Pacific breeze on a ferry between Victoria and Vancouver. Look ahead: the glacier-clad Cascades compound the coolness; hanging baskets blaze in the blue maritime light with fluorescent fuchsias and bountiful begonias; and don't forget afternoon tea near a harbor. Let's go!

*Panayoti Kelaidis, Curator of Plant Collections*



Butchart Gardens.

### Travel Adventures 2001

- St. Louis Spring Fling - April 26-29
- Aspen Wildflower Weekend - July 20-23
- Canadian Rockies Heli-Hiking - Aug. 1-9
- Vancouver Escape - Aug. 22-26
- Glorious Gardens and Villas in Lombardy and Tuscany - Sept. 5-16
- A Deluxe Horticultural Safari to Kenya - Sept. 30-Oct. 13
- Optional Tanzania Extension - Oct. 13-20

Spaces are filling fast. Call Pam Rathke, Travel Coordinator, at 720-865-3527 for more information or to make reservations.

## Membership — Growth Through the Years

Denver Botanic Gardens' membership program began in the early 1960s, and in 1979 we celebrated a record year with 2,940 members. At that time we were a small organization with pretty displays of annuals, seasonal beds of perennials, such as iris, peonies and roses, and a budding education program. Die-hard garden enthusiasts and horticulturalists became members to use the library and take classes. Many visitors strolled the pretty gardens only once a year, and few saw the value of becoming members.

With the development of our gardens, education programs, library and special events, more and more area residents became involved with the Gardens and realized the value of membership. Membership had grown 117% by 1983 (6,381 members), and by 1991 we celebrated a membership number of 10,000.

As a result of evolving programs and the continuing transformation of our gardens into visual and interpretive masterpieces, membership continues to grow each year, taking another leap forward with more than 17,500 members at the end of 2000.

Thanks to the support of our members, the future will bring improved education classes, interactive children's activities, a Gardens-wide interpretation program that will enlighten visitors, and much more.



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## Tax Deductions for 2000

The tax deduction you may take depends on the amount you paid for the membership less its "Fair Market Value." The Fair Market Values for 2000 for Gardener, Landscaper and Arbor Circle is \$10; Botanist Club is \$60; Conservator's Society is \$110; and Perennial Partners is \$213.



## Fundraising Progress



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Donations and gifts have been vital in making Denver Botanic Gardens what it is today. In 1959, Mr. and Mrs. James J. Waring donated the house at 909 York Street, which has since become a Denver Landmark, and used by the Gardens as administrative headquarters. Today, the 8,000-square-foot house remains the behind-the-scenes nerve center for the entire facility.

In 1966, the Boettcher Memorial Conservatory was erected and has since been synonymous with Denver Botanic Gardens. In 1996, we undertook a capital improvement campaign with the primary objective being to renovate the Conservatory, our most recognizable landmark. Gifts from individuals, members of the Board of Trustees, corporations and foundations made this possible. The new and improved Conservatory, exhibiting Tropical Botanica, re-opened in 1998 to rave reviews.

Most recently, financial assistance gained from foundation grants, donations and estate gifts allowed the expansion of the Education Building to take place. The new building addition includes public accessible areas, education offices and a research and conservation center.

Without gifts given by the community, we would not be able to maintain the high level of excellent horticulture, research and education programs that we offer to the community and beyond.

## Memorials and Tributes

### In memory of John C. Mitchell II

Mr. and Mrs. Alan T. Sachtleben  
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Kurtz  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Landis Martin  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Steele  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Campbell  
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Whitbeck  
Ms. Kay H. Kountze  
Bonfils-Stanton Foundation  
Mr. Richard S. Klingenstein  
Mr. Kennard P. Perry  
Mr. Fletcher Thomas  
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Stoddart, Jr.  
Ms. Jane B. O'Rourke  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Wilson  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Rollin D. Barnard  
Mr. and Mrs. Dell Van Gilder  
Mr. Edward Lehman  
Mrs. Clara V. S. Phipps  
Mrs. Benjamin Stapleton & Family

### In memory of Sheilagh Malo

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Kurtz

### In memory of Catherine Tholl

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Frank  
Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson  
Tuchman Family Foundation

### In memory of L. Clark Tierney

Denver Public Library

### In memory of Jolee Trevor Brinkman

Mr. and Mrs. William Sinclair

## A Community Coming Together

What do lights, money and fishing line have in common? Our annual holiday display, Blossoms of Light, presented by Xcel Energy Foundation and made possible by the generous donations from local area stores. Hobby Lobby gave us lights. Walgreens gave us monetary gift certificates. Kmart let us go on a shopping spree to get what we needed (within a certain limit), which happened to be fishing line, used by our horticulture staff to construct magnificent topiaries. We also want to graciously thank Subaru for its major sponsorship of the event. This was a wonderful example of the community working together to give you something spectacular to see this past holiday season—thank you.



Denver Botanic Gardens  
909 York Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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Permit No. 205

**\* Please note: Denver Botanic Gardens has a new phone system. All phone numbers are area code (720), with a prefix of "865." Call 720-865-3501 for information on new phone numbers.**

# 50th Anniversary Events




**Romancing the Gardens**  
**Saturday, February 10**  
**9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Included with admission**  
**to the Gardens**  
**See page 7 for information**

**Romantic Evening**  
**in the Gardens**  
**Saturday, February 10**  
**7:30. to 10 p.m.**  
**\$30 per person or \$50 per couple**  
**See page 7 for information**

**Denver Botanic Gardens**  
1005 York St., Denver, CO 80206  
www.botanicgardens.org  
October-April Hours — Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
General information 720-865-3500  
TDD 720-865-3745  
Gift Shop 720-865-3595  
Helen Fowler Library 720-865-3571  
Sun.- Thurs., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Dr. Green plant information 720-865-3575  
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.  
Planttalk® (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063  
recorded plant information  
Class registration 720-865-3580  
Job Hotline 720-865-3535  
Membership services 720-865-3525  
Newsletter 720-865-3552  
Security, emergencies 720-865-3584  
Special events information 720-865-3544  
Volunteering 720-865-3560

**Chatfield Nature Preserve 303-973-3705**  
Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Denver Botanic Gardens Newsletter**  
Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens  
Editor: Rachel McKinzie Designer: Julie Rudofsky

 Printed on Recycled Paper

**On the cover: Winter Gardens, Rob Proctor.**

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Nature Preserve are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.



# Green Thumb News

March 2001

**Denver Botanic Gardens  
50th Anniversary**



**Behind the Scenes**  
Cover Story on page 3





## Grow

What's 75 feet tall, 150 feet wide and says "GROW?" A drawing by a Denver first-grader, enlarged onto a huge Denver Botanic Gardens mural by artist Chris Krieg, from Evergreen Signs. The mural helped announce that we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary year, and it shares our philosophy of growth for the future with everyone in the community.

In December, the Gardens held a drawing contest with first-graders at Dora Moore Elementary School. The children were asked to write the word "grow" and then draw a Denver Botanic Gardens scene. To help inspire the children, staff members from our Education Department read stories about plants and flowers, and passed around amaryllis plants and other flowers for them to see, feel and smell. The children produced many creative, one-of-a-kind drawings. It was tough to choose, but first-grader Reaunna Hennesy's drawing was chosen for the mural.

The mural was completed in January, and is an enlarged, painted version of Reaunna's beautifully simple drawing.

Reaunna even signed the mural herself, in recognition of her talent and creativity. Make sure you drive by the mural, located on the south wall of the Davis & Shaw Furniture Company building at 14th and Champa.

Many partnerships with the community made this project possible. Thanks to the following for their very generous support: Mayor's Office of Art, Culture and Film, Thomas & Perkins Advertising, Evergreen Signs, Davis & Shaw Furniture Company, Belcaro Paint Decorating Center, Waco Scaffolding & Equipment Company, Central Parking System and Barnhart/CMI Public Relations.

## Employee of the Month

The **January** employee of the month is Ebi Kondo, Environmental Horticulturalist—Perennials and Design. Ebi's creative work can be seen in the Lobby Court displays and recent winter topiaries. He demonstrates wonderful leadership and teamwork as he makes it a point to accomplish projects not only with the help of his own Horticulture Department, but also with other departments.

The **February** employee of the month, Ann Marie Muenzberg, Receptionist/Secretary, deserves equal recognition for her work. Ann Marie does an amazing job and is always pleasant and helpful with both staff and visitors. In fact, one woman suggested that Ann Marie's voice be used on our recorded information lines because it is so friendly. Congratulations Ebi and Ann Marie.

## Volunteering

The majority of what happens at the Gardens is supported and accomplished through the help of volunteers. Whether it is on the grounds or in the greenhouses working with plants; selling in the Gift Shop; checking out books and filing in the library; identifying mushrooms; working at events such as the Holiday Gift & Garden Market; or sharing specific expertise on special projects—volunteers are there.

This generous support comes from over 1,000 volunteers contributing more than 80,000 hours yearly.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Ongoing

- 50th Anniversary events
- Interpretive guides, call 720-865-3609

### Upcoming

- May — Plant & Book Sale, call 720-865-3583
- June — BirdHaus Bash, Deer Creek Discovery Camp at Chatfield Nature Preserve
- July — AABGA (American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta) Conference

**Learn more about volunteering by calling 720-865-3560.**



## Presentation: Mountain Flowers of South Africa

Hasn't this winter dragged on long enough? Denver Botanic Gardens and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society invite you to escape to the fabulous Cape of Good Hope and the unbelievable floral riches of South Africa.

David McDonald, Ph.D. and Deputy Director of the National Botanical Society of South Africa, will lead us on a journey through the higher mountains of South Africa that have provided a cornucopia of wonderful garden plants for Colorado gardens in recent years.

"Mountain Flowers of South Africa" is the third presentation to be held at Denver Botanic Gardens from a leading field botanist from South Africa. Dr. McDonald is an ecologist with a special interest in alpine plants of the Drakensberg Mountains, as well as the rich high mountain flora of the Cape floristic province. You can expect to learn a lot about plants and how the fascinating world of botany permeates the folkways of this beautiful land.

**Dr. David McDonald,  
Deputy Director of the  
National Botanical Society  
of South Africa**

**Tuesday, March 12  
7 p.m. in Mitchell Hall**

\$8 – Denver Botanic Gardens  
and North American Rock  
Garden Society members  
\$10 – General Public

Register in advance by calling  
720-865-3580 or buy tickets  
at the door.



Nick Snakenberg

*Renanthera* hybrid. See and buy orchids at the Denver Orchid Society's Show & Sale on March 10 and 11.

## Denver Orchid Society's Golden Anniversary Celebration

Fifty years ago, a group of 10 orchid enthusiasts met to discuss the possibility of forming an orchid society in the Denver metropolitan area. This nucleus formed the Denver Orchid Society, which currently has a membership of nearly 200. Group meetings are held monthly and feature presentations by orchid experts from across the country and around the world.

Members attending meetings are also able to check out books and videos from the club's library, bring and/or see flowering orchids from collections throughout the region at each month's "Show and Tell" and have opportunities to obtain orchid plants inexpensively. There are also special activities and programs held periodically for new members specifically designed to answer questions and encourage participation. For more information on joining the Denver Orchid Society, contact Syd Landreneau, Membership Chair, at 303-933-8598.

In addition to monthly meetings, the Denver Orchid Society sponsors two orchid shows each year. The theme for this month's show and sale is "Orchid Mardi Gras," in celebration of the Society's 50th anniversary year and the spring season. Although Fat Tuesday actually falls about 10 days prior to the event, we're sure that members and friends will save a bit of their Mardi Gras spirit for the orchid show weekend.

Be sure to come with your Mardi Gras spirit on March 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The show will be held in Mitchell Hall, and is included with admission to the Gardens (free for members).

*Ken Shump, President, Denver Orchid Society*



## COVER STORY: Behind The Scenes

The mystery of what lies beyond our view captivates the imagination and whets the appetite to explore and be rewarded with the discovery of secluded treasures. Visitors and members gain entry to the back service areas and greenhouses of Denver Botanic Gardens on occasion, either as volunteers, shoppers during the annual plant sale or participants of special tours offered to members. What appears to eager eyes in these secluded areas are more plants—thousands of plants that reside beyond the public view in greenhouses that serve the Gardens in a variety of ways.

Two greenhouses serve as propagation facilities where large numbers of seedlings and cuttings are grown for the outdoor gardens, as well as the indoor lobby displays. In these instances, the plants eventually gain greater visibility in public areas.

Located directly beneath Marnie's Pavilion (the west end of the Conservatory) is a nonpublic greenhouse, home to the Gardens' orchid collection. The orchid collection of plants is expanding and includes nearly 800 species representing close to 200 genera. The second notable collection that resides behind the scenes is the bromeliad collection, housed in greenhouse 3, another non-public area. Greenhouse 3, partitioned into three separate units, provides optimum conditions for the cultivation of this collection of approximately 1,500 plants. The bromeliad collection contains 879 species and 45 genera, as well as several rare and/or endangered plants. As specimens of these collections come into flower, they are made visible in Tropical Botanica. In addition, the orchids set the stage for the two orchid shows that take place at the Gardens each year.



Gary Davis

*Aechmea fulgens* var. *discolor* 'Albo-marginata,' a beautiful specimen in the bromeliad collection.



Gary Davis

*Amorphophallus titanum* displays magnificent, deeply lobed leaves in its behind-the-scenes greenhouse location at the Gardens.

The remaining greenhouse is home to a mixed collection of tropical plants, including a variety of palms, cycads and aroids that rotate into public areas as they are needed or when they are prime for display. One such plant is *Amorphophallus titanum*, an interesting aroid that produces a spectacular inflorescence, following cycles of dormancy and vegetative growth.

Within these behind the scenes areas are other groups of cactus, succulents, bonsai and carnivorous plants, as well as rare plants that must remain under close protection. We have a dream at the Gardens for new glasshouses, which would allow the public to view our world-renown plant collections throughout the year, and appreciate the diversity, beauty and importance of those collections.



## A Glimpse Into Colorado's Biodiversity

*"...from genes to species to ecosystems to landscapes: Each is part of the fabric of life.  
Each is a component of biodiversity."*

*Precious Heritage: The Nature Conservancy & Association for Biodiversity Information, 2000*



Chimney Rock, Montezuma County, Colorado.

Approaching from the east, the majestic mountain peaks of Colorado can be seen from many miles away. Although stunning, these mountains are more than majestic monoliths in the sky. They are the driving force of the biological diversity that has evolved in the Rocky Mountains. Colorado is one of a few areas in the world where it is possible to see expansive grasslands, coniferous and deciduous forests, alpine tundra and semi-desert shrublands within a hundred miles of each other. The topographic and climatic diversity of Colorado has helped to shape the many landscapes, ecosystems, species and genes that collectively constitute Colorado's biodiversity.

Biodiversity has become a common term and could even be considered a "catch phrase" of the environmental movement, but what does it really mean? Biodiversity is the variety and variability of life on Earth. Although concise, this definition fails to mention

the ecological and evolutionary processes that allow species to evolve and adapt to dynamic environments. Therefore, we need to broaden our definition of biodiversity to include species, their genetic variability, and the ecosystems, landscapes and intricate web of interactions to which they belong.

Each of these aspects is a critical component of biodiversity that expands beyond the simple concept of counting the number of species. We must think of biodiversity as the threads that connect individual species to ecosystems, ecosystems to landscapes and ultimately to the existence of all life.

Colorado is diverse. The forces of migration, evolution and introduction in conjunction with Colorado's topographic and climatic variability, have formed many different plant communities and species. The varied habitats of Colorado host approximately 3,088 species of plants, of which 2,628 species are native to Colorado. The Nature

Conservancy estimates that in Colorado, 304 species are at risk of extinction and 54 are endemic to Colorado. An endemic species is one that evolved in a specified area (i.e. Colorado) and is not found anywhere else on Earth. Colorado has 13 plant species that are listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. These species are managed and protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a department within the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Our region's rich biodiversity is an important asset to Colorado's quality of life. On your next adventure, take time to see how the forests change with elevation, identify a few tree species and the birds that perch within them, or watch the sun set beyond the vast sagebrush ocean of western Colorado. Acknowledging the variety of life is the first step toward protecting Colorado's rich biological diversity.

*Thomas Grant, Research Associate*



*Oenothera caespitosa*, Montezuma County, Colorado.

Carol A. Dawson

Carol A. Dawson



# March

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

**March 10 and 11, Denver Orchid Society Show & Sale**

The Denver Orchid Society, celebrating its 50th anniversary, will hold its "Orchid Mardi Gras" spring show and sale in Mitchell Hall on March 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Orchids will be for sale and on display, and experts will be on hand to answer questions.

**March 17 and 18, Rocky Mountain African Violet Council Show & Sale**

The Rocky Mountain African Violet Council's "2001 Violet Odyssey" Spring Show and Sale will take place on Saturday, March 17 from 1-4:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gardens. African violets, gesneriads and designs will be on display and many varieties and sizes of African violets will be for sale. For more information, call 303-423-6072.

**March 24 and 25, Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**

The Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale will be held on Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Gardens. Thousands of cacti and succulents will be for sale, as well as a significant selection of winter-hardy plants. Experts will be available to answer questions and brief seminars will be offered throughout the day. Additionally, books, containers, potting soils and fertilizers will be for sale. For more information, call Pamela Story at 303-979-8171.

**March 28, Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Ethne Clark: The Italian Garden—A Singular Passion**

In this lecture, Ethne Clark will give a brief overview of the history of Italian gardening, with special emphasis on the livable landscape design of Tuscan gardens. Clark is an internationally-known, award-winning garden writer and lecturer, specializing in the history of landscape design. This lecture will be held on Wednesday, March 28 at two sessions: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The cost is \$20 for non-members and \$16 for members. For information or to register, call 720-865-3580.

**50 Cent Friday — Featuring Chatfield**

The first of five 50 Cent Fridays will take place on March 2, as one of the many events we'll be hosting celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Held at the Gardens, this day will feature displays about Chatfield Nature Preserve. Learn about the natural plant and animal life at Chatfield, as well as long-term Hildebrand Farm and prairie restoration projects. Information about educational programs, volunteer opportunities and events will also be on display. Don't miss this special day of celebrating our 50th Anniversary. Admission to this event is free for members, and only 50 cents for the general public.



4

5

Flowers Express Themselves\*  
Introduction to Garden Design\*  
Ornamental and Native Grasses:  
The Wave of the Future\*

6

**Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting**  
Handsome and Harmonious

11

**Denver Orchid Society Show & Sale** 

12

**Presentation: Mountain Flowers of South Africa**  
**Colorado Mycological Society mtg.**

13

**Colorado Cactus Society**

18


**Rocky Mountain African Violet Council Show & Sale**   
**American Begonia Society meeting**  
**Mile High Daylily Society meeting**

19

20

**Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting**  
Botanical Latin Lover\*

25

**Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**   
Landscaping with Herbs\*

26

27

**Colorado Native Plant Society meeting**  
Billowing Beautiful Gardens

**KEY FOR CALENDAR**


**Bold teal type = Gardens events, call 720-865-3544 for information**

**Bold type = Plant Society events, call 720-865-3639 for information**

**Volunteer opportunities, 720-865-3560**

Regular black type = Classes\*

Chatfield = Chatfield Nature Preserve

 = Free to members

\* Preregistration is required for all classes. Call 720-865-3580.



# WEDNESDAY

# THURSDAY

# FRIDAY

# SATURDAY



**1**

Intermediate Bonsai: A Maple Grove\*  
Candle Making Part I\*

**2**

**50 Cent Friday**   
**Free Day & Drop-in Tour**  
*Chatfield Nature Preserve*



**3**

Identifying Colorado Conifers\*  
Western Slope Wildflowers\*

**7**

Easy Herbal Soap Soapmaking  
101 & 102\*

**8**

Candle Making Part II\*

**9**

**10**

**Denver Orchid Society**   
**Show & Sale**  
**Denver Rose Society meeting**

**14**

A Garden of Your Own: Colorado Style\*

**15**

Orchid Workshop\*

**16**

**17**

**Rocky Mountain African Violet**   
**Council Show & Sale**

**21**


**North American Rock Garden**  
**Society meeting**  
**Herb Society of American meeting**  
Cacti & Other Succulents  
for Beginners\*  
All Natural Face and Skin Care\*

**22**

**African Violet Society of**  
**Denver meeting**

**23**

**24**

**Colorado Cactus & Succulent**   
**Society Show & Sale**  
Container Herb Gardening\*  
Herb Topiaries\*

**28**

**Bonfils-Stanton Lecture:**  
**Ethne Clark: The Italian Garden—**  
**A Singular Passion**

**29**

Making and Using Flower Essences\*

**30**

**31**

Making and Using Flower Essences\*





## Gardens for Picking, Smelling and Tasting

Denver Botanic Gardens' Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center is the nucleus for some of our most interactive gardens. The greenhouse in the Morrison Center will be unveiling a new look as the Horticulture Department steps in to work their magic. With the shift in responsibility, this indoor oasis will provide an opportunity to observe interesting sensory plants and the propagation of herbs and vegetables.

Outside the Morrison Center is the intimate Sensory Garden. This garden has undergone a renaissance in the past year to fulfill its goals to delight your

senses of smell, touch, taste, sound and sight, and also to be a garden that is completely accessible. With the spring bulbs emerging, this garden, where picking, smelling and tasting is encouraged, is one not to miss.

Picking, smelling and tasting are also expected while tending your own plot in the Community Gardens of Denver Botanic Gardens. This area offers experimental opportunities in organic gardening with all the tools of the trade provided for you. All Gardens' members are welcome to tend a Community Garden plot on an open availability basis.

For 25 years, this space has served as a learning ground for the techniques of organic vegetable and flower growing. The Community Gardens are moving from under the leadership of Education to the Horticulture Department. New plans include improving the site as a demonstration garden, and offering informative displays for our casual visitors to gain practical knowledge during their strolls through this community-built oasis. To learn more about our Community Gardens, contact Estee Fleming at 720-865-3611.

*Estee Fleming, Interactive Gardens Team Leader*



Estee Fleming

Composting in the Community Gardens can be a lot of fun.



©Jim Havey

Visitors can pick, smell and taste vegetables in gardens such as the French Kitchen Garden and the Sensory Garden.





## Tomato Plant Girl Comes to the Gardens

The Denver Children's Theatre of the Mizel Arts Center at the Jewish Community Center presents the regional premiere of *Tomato Plant Girl*, by Wesley Middleton. This play for children, recommended for grades pre-K through 5th, will be at the Center's Shwayder Theatre from February 27 through May 6, 2001.

Denver Botanic Gardens will be at the Mizel Arts Center for the Sunday performances with children's "Sprouts" activities, to enhance the experience with hands on fun.

You can catch a sneak preview of *Tomato Plant Girl* as actors perform short scenes from the play at Denver Botanic Gardens. Call 720-865-3611 for details on dates and times.

Denver Botanic Gardens members will also have a special opportunity to view the performance for half price on two Sundays: April 1 and 29, 2001. Show your current membership card at the Shwayder Theatre ticket counter to receive your discount.

Denver Botanic Gardens and the Mizel Arts Center at the JCC are both partially funded by the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), and are pleased to be working together to bring you this garden experience.

For more information call Denver Botanic Gardens, 720-865-3611, or the Mizel Arts Center, 303-316-6360.

## Pitchers Under Glass

Our carnivorous plant collection includes numerous pitcher plants (*Sarracenia* spp.). These fascinating plants spend the summer outside, but relocate back to the greenhouses during the winter, where the environment is more humid. *Sarracenia purpurea*, a pitcher plant whose native range extends from Georgia to northeastern British Columbia, could potentially spend the winter outside, but this year is enjoying a winter vacation behind the scenes in our cool greenhouse.

The tallest pitcher in our collection, *Sarracenia leucophylla*, doesn't do as well outside in Colorado's arid climate. We can reproduce its native soil conditions by creating a bog, but its tall pitchers grow up into the arid air unlike the stubby, open pitchers of *S. purpurea*. These two plants provide an interesting contrast in how they capture prey. Many observers speculate that *S. purpurea* actually drowns its victims. Because it has no hood, rainwater dilutes the digestive enzymes; mosquitoes can even breed safely in the pool of water. The huge, hooded pitchers of *S. leucophylla* often become full with trapped insects in a digestive broth. Carnivorous plants are indeed interesting, be sure to come see them during their summer expedition outdoors. You can also read and learn about them from the books in our library.

Susan Eubank, Senior Librarian

### Book used for information in the article from the Helen Fowler Library:

Schnell, Donald E. 1976. *Carnivorous Plants of the United States and Canada*. Winston-Salem, N.C.: John F. Blair. QK917 .S3 1976



*Sarracenia purpurea*.

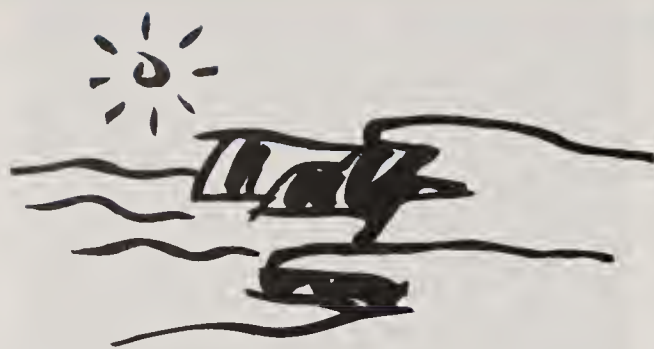
Joe Tomocik



©Jim Havey

**Deer Creek Discovery Camp** is an annual event held at Chatfield Nature Preserve. Children seven to 11-years-old are invited to attend the camp, which gives them the chance to experience and learn about nature through numerous activities, including an overnight campout. Week-long sessions will be held from June 18 through August 10. Registration begins on April 2. Call 303-973-3705 for more information and to request a brochure.





## Vancouver Escape — August 22-27, 2001

The northwest will be the perfect place to escape the heat of Colorado in August. In Vancouver, we'll visit the VanDusen Botanical Gardens, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's Classical Chinese Garden and several marvelous private gardens. We'll see an incredible display of totem poles and Native Peoples artifacts at the Museum of Anthropology on the University of British Columbia campus. Walking tours and hikes will also be included. No trip would be complete without a tour to Vancouver Island to visit the Butchart Gardens, the city of Victoria and the Royal British Columbia Museum. Special receptions, dinners and tours are also planned.

The land only price is \$1,595 per person based on double occupancy and includes: ground transportation, lodging, most meals, entry fees, activities, and guiding services. A \$300 deposit is required with final payment due May 18. This trip is rated "easy," which means walking tours of short duration and distance can be expected. Please call Pam Rathke, Travel Coordinator at 720-865-3527, for information or to register.



Gary Davis

*Notocactus succineus* var. *albispinus*. The Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society will host a show and sale at the Gardens on March 24 and 25.

## Member Discount at the Colorado Springs Home and Garden Show

The 4th annual Colorado Springs Home and Garden Show will be held March 2-4 at the New Youth Outreach Center, 1801 North Union in Colorado Springs. Show your current Denver Botanic Gardens membership card at the door and receive \$1 off each admission (regularly \$7 for adults and \$3 for children). For more information on the show, call 1-800-811-7469.



Ella Kieselino

*Saintpaulia*. 'Colorado Rosebud.' See and buy African violets and more at the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council's Show & Sale on March 17 and 18.

## 2000 Tax Deductions

The tax deduction you may take depends on the amount you paid for the membership less its Fair Market Value. The 2000 Fair Market Value for Gardener, Landscaper and Arbor Circle is \$10; Botanist Club is \$60; Conservator's Society is \$110; and Perennial Partners is \$213.



## Gardens Remembers a Dear Friend and Loyal Supporter

Denver Botanic Gardens lost a dear friend and loyal supporter when June S. Gates died on December 23. As a long-time trustee and donor, Mrs. Gates was one of the Gardens most enthusiastic supporters. Her support and that of her family has been important since the beginning of the Gardens 50 years ago; in fact, the Gates Montane Garden was one of the earliest gardens at the York Street site. Her enthusiasm could not have been more evident than when she spoke about the recent renovations of our outdoor gardens or about the new education building expansion, which was funded in large part by the Gates Family Foundation. June Gates will be sadly missed at Denver Botanic Gardens.

## Memories and Messages in the Gardens

Many people have taken the wonderful opportunity to have a personalized engraved brick placed in the Romantic Gardens for all to see. Share your love and memories with a long-lasting message, or just have fun creating your own personal piece of the Gardens. Last year, a man bought a brick and had it engraved with the message, "Will You Marry Me?" He then brought his beloved to the Romantic Gardens, and led her to the strategically-placed surprise. His message will remain at the Gardens a long time for all to see, and wonder what her answer was. To purchase a brick, or for more information, call Melanie Hevko at 720-865-3528.

## Memorials and Tributes

### **In honor of Mary B. Schaefer**

Ms. Carol Purdy  
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Davis

### **In memory of Linda Campbell**

Dr. William A. Campbell

### **In memory of John C. Mitchell II**

Dr. William A. Campbell  
Mrs. Ruth Keesling  
Mrs. Stasia Davison  
Ms. Elinor Christiansen  
Ms. Cynthia Kendrick  
Mrs. Ruth York  
Ms. Sandra Nilges  
Ms. Diane Bakke  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Connors  
Ms. Carol K. Gossard  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taplin  
Mrs. Henry Swan  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Downing  
Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Blickensderfer  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Welborn  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Kany  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Hamilton  
Mrs. William G. Temple  
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Olson  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce D. Alexander  
Mrs. Charla Cannon  
Mr. Mattie W. Jaehning  
Mr. and Mrs. William Thurston  
Ms. Carol Purdy

### **In memory of Nancy Newton Davis**

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Wilbur  
Ms. Harriet Rydstrom  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Connors  
Davis, Graham & Stubbs LLP  
Garden Club of Denver  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taplin  
Mrs. Benjamin Stapleton  
Mr. and Mrs. Will F. Nicholson, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Downing  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Grant  
Ms. Lois S. Robertson  
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Weeks  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kirk  
Ms. Celeste de Baca  
Ms. Claudia Merthan  
Mr. and Mrs. George Hopfenbeck  
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Nichols  
Inverness Properties, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart A. Miller  
Ms. Jane O'Rourke  
Mrs. Katherine Beise  
Mr. and Mrs. Quigg Newton  
The Perennial Garden Club  
Mr. and Mrs. Gale T. Miller  
Ms. Carol Purdy

### **In memory of L. Clark Tierney**

Mr. and Mrs. George M. Canon  
Ms. Carol deB. Whitaker

### **In memory of Lela Fretz**

Ms. Yvonne J. Baca

### **In memory of Catherine Tholl**

Mr. and Mrs. Yitzchak Teitelbaum  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Leventhal  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Smith

### **In memory of Sheilagh Malo**

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taplin

### **In memory of Maruko Ishiyama**

Ms. Ayako Wada  
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Wesswick  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Yamamoto  
Mr. and Mrs. Beans Yamamoto  
Mrs. Eva Hellers  
Ms. Mary McGee  
Mariko Hashimoto  
Mr. and Mrs. H. Harold Nishi

### **In memory of Virginia Kerrick Morey**

Mr. Edward A. Morey  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Morey  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kennedy  
Mrs. Frank E. Simon  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Henderson  
Ms. Alison Lara Kennedy

### **In memory of Everett Long**

Kristin, Tom & Jim Blickensderfer

### **In memory of Maxine Atkinson**

Ms. Mollie Lee Beresford

### **In memory of Mary Elizabeth Rheem**

Ms. Jane O'Rourke

### **In memory of Robert Groves**

Mr. and Mrs. Philip F. Roan

### **In memory of Alfred Mayer**

Mr. and Mrs. William Kuhn  
Mrs. Walter Reit

### **In memory of David N. Wortman**

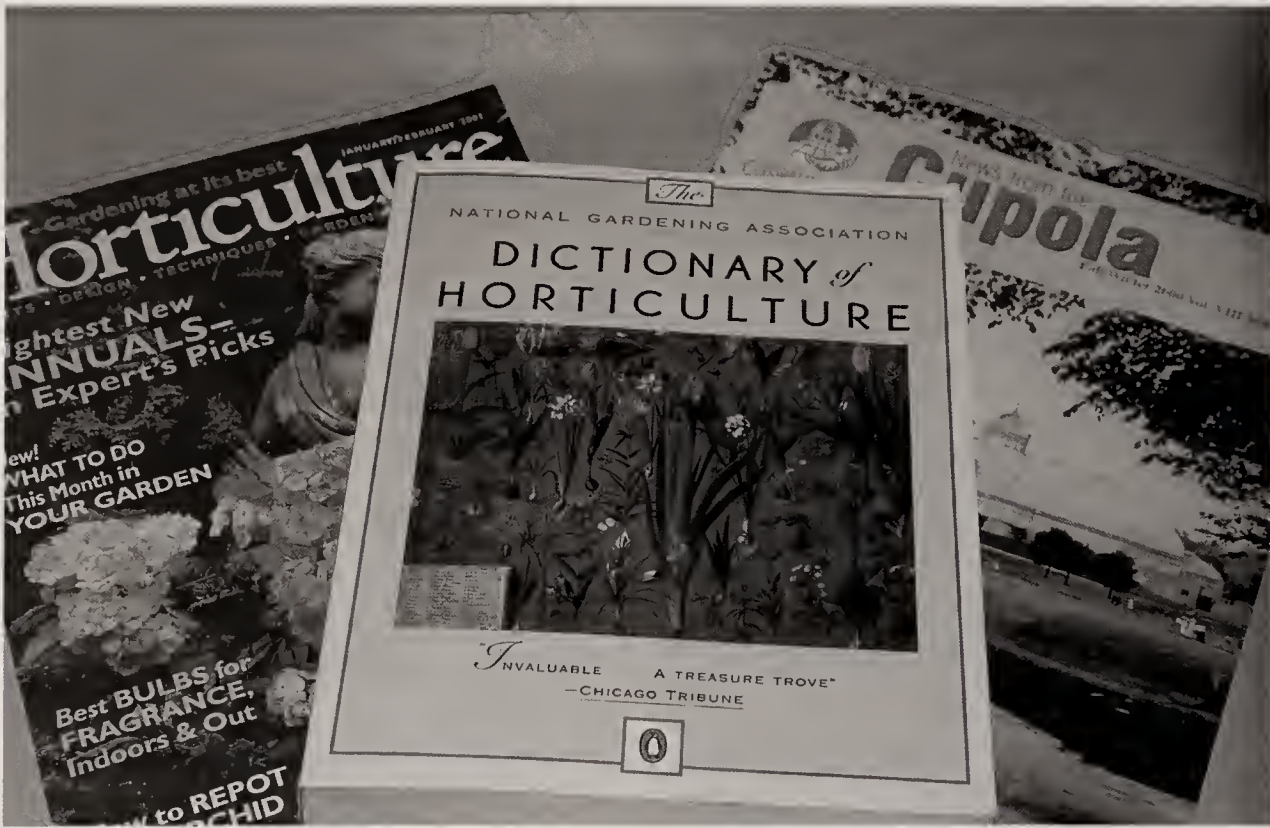
Mrs. Joanne Wortman



Denver Botanic Gardens  
909 York Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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## Plan Your Garden in Our Library

Come join the frenzy. March is the busiest month in the Helen Fowler Library because everyone's ready to plan their garden. We'll be happy to help you find information on any plant-related topic. The Library is open to the public, and members may borrow books free of charge. Visit us Saturday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

<b>Denver Botanic Gardens</b>	
1005 York St., Denver, CO 80206	
www.botanicgardens.org	
October-April Hours — Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
General information	720-865-3500
TDD	720-865-3745
Gift Shop	720-865-3595
Helen Fowler Library	720-865-3570
Sun.- Thurs., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
Dr. Green plant information	720-865-3575
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.	
Planttalk® (24-hour)	1-888-666-3063
recorded plant information	
Class registration	720-865-3580
Event information	720-865-3544
Job Hotline	720-865-3535
Membership/Address changes	720-865-3525
Newsletter	720-865-3552
Security, emergencies	720-865-3584
Volunteering	720-865-3560
<b>Chatfield Nature Preserve</b>	
<b>303-973-3705</b>	
Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	

**Denver Botanic Gardens Newsletter**  
Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens  
Editor: Rachel McKinzie Designer: Julie Rudofsky

 Printed on Recycled Paper

**On the cover:** x*Laeliocattleya* Liptoni g. 'Snowflake'  
HCC/POS, John M. Stewart

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Nature Preserve are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.



# Green Thumb News

April 2001

**Denver Botanic Gardens  
50th Anniversary**



**Celebrate Earth Day at  
Chatfield Nature Preserve**  
Cover story on page 8



Denver Botanic Gardens





Tickets for the 2001 Summer Concert Series go on sale to members April 9.

## Summer Concert Series

### Tickets On Sale to Members April 9

Current members have the privilege of purchasing concert tickets before the general public. **Members will receive the 2001 Summer Concert Series brochure in the last week of March, and be able to buy tickets April 9.**

Arbor Circle members and above may buy concert tickets at a discounted price. Botanist Club members and above receive vouchers for free tickets. To upgrade your membership, or inquire about vouchers, please call the membership office at 720-865-3525.

For 21 years we have had one successful summer after another of concerts. Our outdoor amphitheater is one of Denver's best-kept secrets. You can stretch out among the lush Gardens and enjoy music from some of the world's finest musical artists. This summer promises to be one of the most spectacular series yet, with some of the biggest names ever brought to the Gardens.

All shows are rain or shine, and all seating is general admission lawn seating. Feel free to bring a picnic dinner, or take your pick from three choices of pre-made dinners from Three Tomatoes Catering when you order your tickets. Don't miss out—tickets go on sale to the general public May 7.

## Employee of the Month

The March employee of the month is Chuck Robinson, Information Systems Manager. "Cyber Chuck," faster than a spreading virus, more powerful than any system failure and able to leap over huge user errors with a single click, is always on board to keep us connected to each other and the world. A constant problem solver, he is a calm and reassuring force in the eye of any technical storm. Congratulations Chuck.



Thomas A. Grant III

Learn about our research projects, which often take place off site at places such as the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, pictured above, at the 50 Cent Friday on April 6.

## 50 Cent Friday — Featuring Research

Come to the Gardens on April 6 and enjoy a day of fun and education for only 50 cents, in celebration of our 50th Anniversary. Our Research Department will be featured and cultural entertainment will be provided. Learn about our conservation efforts and plant research projects both at the Gardens and at Chatfield Nature Preserve, Mt. Goliath and Rocky Mountain National Park. Admission is only 50 cents for the general public and free for members.





# BIRDHAUS BASH 2011

THURSDAY JUNE 28TH

Please join us by submitting your creative talents and skills for the Seventh Annual Denver Botanic

CREATIVE

Gardens BirdHaus Bash. We are looking for some unusually creative

UNUSUAL

people, young and old alike, to create, build and deliver some fabulous bird houses and bird baths

to be auctioned off at our annual auction. What better way to have a good time and simultaneously

GOOD TIME

benefit a very good cause. Come join us and bid on your favorite birdhouse and support our edu-

cation, horticulture and conservation programs.

<b>1</b>	<b>Friday, May 11</b>
	Deadline for receipt of entry forms

<b>2</b>	<b>Friday/Saturday, June 15/16</b>
	Deadline for birdhouse delivery

<b>3</b>	<b>Thursday, June 28</b>
	Garden Party & Auction

TO RECEIVE AN ENTRY FORM OR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 720-865-3546.



## More Great Plants from Plant Select®

Spring fever. No one suffers the delights of this energetic malady like gardeners. The priorities of the season focus on the adventures of searching for and acquiring new plants for the garden. Since 1997, Plant Select® has introduced and recommended a stellar palette of plants for regional gardens, and this year is no exception.

Five perennial plants are among the Plant Select® 2001 offerings. They feature outstanding flowers that enliven gardens with color throughout the season. 'First Love' Dianthus gains recognition for its enticing, spicy fragrance and continuous display of flowers that open white and deepen to a rich rose color. It's sure to become as popular in home gardens as it has in the Romantic Gardens, where it has delighted visitors for the past several years.

DENVER GOLD™ Columbine is a hallmark plant for the Gardens' 50th Anniversary. Huge yellow flowers with long, graceful spurs appear in May and continue throughout the summer on this easy-to-grow plant that will naturalize readily in either sun or shade.



DENVER GOLD™ Columbine, a Plant Select® plant, will be given to anyone who purchases over \$50 in plants at the Plant & Book Sale on May 11 and 12, in celebration of our 50th Anniversary.

Another remarkable columbine for consideration is REMEMBRANCE® Columbine, endorsed by Plant Select® for its beauty and significance in honoring the memory of those lost in the Columbine High School tragedy. A natural choice for regional conditions, REMEMBRANCE® Columbine is best grown in partly shaded areas. The rich, violet-blue and white flowers are a welcome addition to any garden.

CORONADO™ Hyssop brings a generous supply of uniquely colored flowers from midsummer to autumn. The tubular flowers of yellow and orange are attractive to hummingbirds and the entire plant is intensely aromatic. Rounding out the perennial selections is ORANGE CARPET™ California Fuchsia, a low-growing and spreading groundcover with stunning orange-scarlet flowers in abundance from summer through fall. ORANGE CARPET® is perfectly suited for higher altitudes and drier soils.

COMANCHE™ Gooseberry is a Plant Select® recommended shrub with special appeal for kitchen gardeners on the search for more than ornamental value in a plant. The bonus beyond the beauty of the bright and lustrous foliage of COMANCHE™ Gooseberry is the bountiful clusters of huge red berries with sweet flavor that tantalize anyone's tastebuds.

Last, but certainly not least in this year's offerings is CHEYENNE™ Mock Orange, an outstanding shrub that has been under observation at the Hildreth-Howard Arboretum (formerly known as the USDA Field Station) at Cheyenne, Wyoming for many decades. Over the years, this North American native has continued to thrive at that location despite the severe climate and minimal care. Large white flowers with



James Klett

CHEYENNE™ Mock Orange, a new 2001 Plant Select® plant, has been growing at the Hildreth-Howard Arboretum for many decades, where it continues to thrive.

intense fragrance are showy in early summer against handsome dark green foliage and cinnamon-colored stems.

### Plant & Book Sale, May 11 & 12

Plant Select® continues to search and distribute the very best plants for gardens from the high plains to the intermountain region. Be sure to look for these new offerings as well as those from previous years at the annual Plant & Book Sale, May 11 and 12. Discover a great variety of remarkable plants for your garden. Throughout the sale, DENVER GOLD™ Columbine will be given as a gift for all purchases over \$50 in celebration of the Gardens' 50th Anniversary. The Associate Sponsor of the sale is Davis & Shaw Furniture Company.



## Spring Planting



Preparing soil before planting is an important step. Picture above, Rich Bishop and Suzie Brown place plants in prepped soil for the Mediterranean Plaza, planted last summer.

Each spring, a host of beginning gardeners take up the task of planting. Some take to the spade with little hesitation, as if born to the endeavor. Others experience fear of planting and agonize about what, and what not to do. Here are some guidelines to help you make a home for plants in your garden.

### The Basics:

- The most important activity for a gardener is to prepare the soil for planting, either by rough spading or rototilling. This initial action helps to break up compacted soils.
- The addition of compost is the second most important step, especially if the soils are heavy with clay or loose with sand. Loosening the soil and adding compost will help roots move throughout the soil and transplants will settle in and begin growing more quickly.
- After the soil is prepped and raked smooth, planting may begin.

Remember that these are essential activities that should take place before planting, whatever the season. It is a good idea to research the cultural needs of your plants. Many southwestern natives do not need compost added to the soil, while other plants will benefit from the addition.

### Planting:

#### Perennials, shrubs and trees

- The guidelines for planting perennials, shrubs and trees are generally the same. Before beginning to plant, make sure that your plants are well watered. Dig holes large enough to accommodate the root ball of the plant. After removing the plant from its container, rough up the root ball, especially if the roots have completely circled the container and have become congested or tightly entangled. Trees or shrubs that are balled and burlapped should not have their root balls disturbed.
- Place the plant in the hole and fill in with soil, so that the top is at the same level as the surface of the surrounding soil, not too high or too low. Firm the soil around the plant, but do not stamp with your feet; it will compact the soil. Water the plant deeply after planting. Wait a few days and then check for any settling of the plant or surrounding soil, and adjust.

#### Vegetable and annual transplants

- The same guidelines as above apply when planting vegetable and annual transplants from small packs and pots. If you are planting seed, it is best to follow the package directions. Good soil preparation is essential for success in planting seeds.

With the annual Plant & Book Sale only weeks away, now is the time to lay the groundwork for all the plants you are sure to bring home to your garden. Dig in and be ready for a great season of planting.

*Suzie Brown, Woody Plant Specialist  
Rich Bishop, Environmental Team Leader*





# April

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

## April 6, 50 Cent Friday

Celebrate our 50th Anniversary throughout the year with 50 Cent Fridays. See page 1 for more details.

## April 6 and 16, Tomato Plant Girl

Don't miss scenes from the Jewish Community Center's play *Tomato Plant Girl*, taking place at the Gardens at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 6, a 50 cent admission day, and Monday, April 16, a free day. This play, set in a garden, explores the life of a young girl as she learns the lessons of friendship and growing up through her interactions with a magical Tomato Plant Girl. For more information on this event, call 720-865-3611.

## April 21, Earth Day Celebration

Come to Chatfield Nature Preserve and participate in several conservation/restoration projects. See page 8 for details.

## April 21, North American Rock Garden Society Show & Sale

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will host a show and sale on Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A wide array of rock garden plants, from penstemons to cacti, will be available for purchase and ready to be planted. Call 720-865-3639 for recorded plant society event information.

## April 25, Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Tom Hobbs: Shocking Beauty—Innovative Garden Designs

Garden designer Tom Hobbs is considered to be on the cutting edge of innovative garden design. A true visionary, he'll show you how to go beyond conventional garden design concepts by blending color, texture and plants to create inspiring beauty in the garden. The lecture will be offered at two times: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Gardens. The cost is \$16 for members and \$20 for non-members. Call 720-865-3580 to register.

## May 22, Guild Open House

If you enjoy herb gardening and want to learn more about it, come to a Denver Botanic Gardens Guild Open House for new members on Tuesday, May 22 at 10 a.m. in the Herb Garden gazebo. For more information, contact Marion Nutt at 303-793-0949.

## KEY FOR CALENDAR

**Bold magenta type = Gardens events, call 720-865-3544 for information**

**Bold type = Plant Society events, call 720-865-3639 for information**

**Volunteer opportunities, 720-865-3560**

Regular black type = Classes\*

Chatfield = Chatfield Nature Preserve


 = Free to members

1

2

3

8

**Colorado Water Garden Society**   
**Seminar: Ponds: Links to Learning**

9

**Concert Tickets on Sale to Members**

10

15

16

**Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens**  
**Tomato Plant Girl Performance** 

17



22

23

Shrub Roses Mingling with Perennials and Natives (Class held at Chatfield)\*

24

29

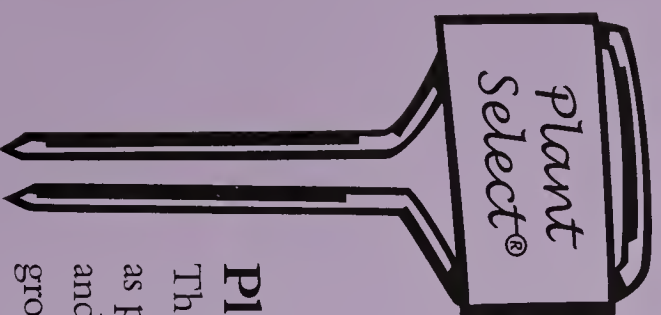
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## 50th Anniversary Plant

DENVER GOLD™ Columbine, a Plant Select® plant, is a hallmark plant for the Gardens' 50th Anniversary. Spend over \$50 at the sale, and receive this beautiful Colorado plant as a gift.



## Plant Select®

The Plant Select Program® will debut this year's plant selections, as well as previous winners chosen by the Gardens, Colorado State University and Green Industries of Colorado for their suitability to the special growing conditions of the Rocky Mountain region.

## Book Sale

Thousands of donated books, magazines, compact discs and videos will be for sale at bargain prices in Gates Hall/Garden Court.



## Refreshments

Soda, bottled water, sandwiches, cookies, chins





# Denver Botanic Gardens 52nd Annual Plant & Book Sale May 11 & 12

## Members-only Shopping Hours

Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12, 8:30-10 a.m.

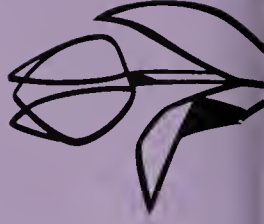
One person admitted per membership card. (Seniors and physically challenged members may bring a second person for assistance). Memberships can be bought at the main gate.

## Public Shopping Hours

Friday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

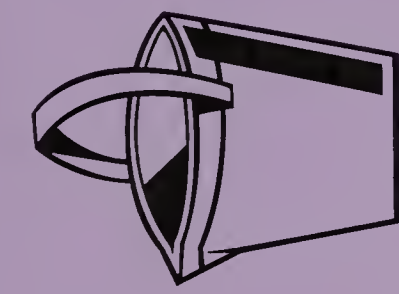
## Plants! Plants! Plants!

Enjoy one-stop garden shopping for your convenience. Choose from a great variety of perennials, annuals, herbs, vegetables, roses and water plants. Patio baskets, xeriscape plants, rock





tropicals and bonsai plants will also be available, providing a complete selection of plants for your home garden. Visit our Gift Shop for gardening tools, clothes, books and gifts.



## Parking

Free off-site parking will be available at National Jewish Medical and Research Center (parking lot at 14th and Albion Streets) and a shuttle bus will drive you the short distance to the Gardens. You'll receive an additional 10% off your purchases for riding the shuttle.

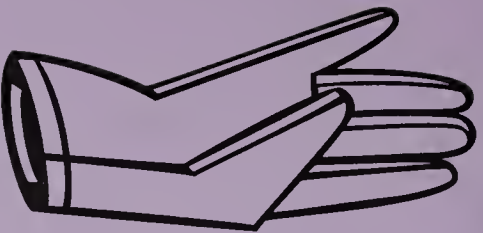
## Plant Transportation

We encourage you to bring your own wagon or cart to transport plants.

Plant valets will be located at the corner of 11th Avenue and Gaylord Street and at the main entrance on York Street. Simply leave your purchases with the valet, return with your car and volunteers will help load your plants into your car.







## Volunteer Opportunities

The Plant & Book Sale is the biggest volunteer-driven event of the year and lots of help is needed before and during the sale. Volunteers also get to shop during members-only hours. To volunteer, please call 720-865-3583.

**The Gardens will be closed Thursday, May 10  
for sale preparation.**

For more information please call 720-865-3544.



**Denver Botanic Gardens**

1005 York Street, Denver, CO 80206

[www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

*Furniture for picky people.*

**DAVIS & SHAW**





# WEDNESDAY

# THURSDAY

# FRIDAY

# SATURDAY

4

Propagating Miniature Roses\*

5

Intermediate Bonsai: Pumice  
Stone Planting\*  
Pestos and More . . . 100 Uses  
for Spring Herbs\*

6

**50 Cent Friday**   
**Free Day at Chatfield**  
**Tomato Plant Girl performance** 



7

**Denver Rose Society**   
**Rose Symposium**  
How to Train Your Grapevine\*

11

12

Hot Frames\*

13

14

The Water Garden: Basic  
Pool Construction\*


18

19

20

**North American Rock Garden  
Society Show & Sale** 

21

**Earth Day Celebration at Chatfield  
North American Rock Garden  
Society Show & Sale**   
Pressed Flowers and Herbs\*

25

**Bonfils-Stanton Lecture:**  
**Tom Hobbs: Shocking Beauty—  
Innovative Garden Designs\***

26

**Behind the Scenes Tour**  
*for members only\**  
**26-29 Travel Adventure:**  
**St. Louis Spring Fling\***  
Organic Rose Growing\*

27

28

Papermaking with Herbs\*  
Papermaking with Iris Leaves\*



## Behind the Scenes Tour

Arbor Circle level members and above are invited to experience and learn about our Horticultural Therapy program on a special behind the scenes tour held April 26. Lectures, presentations and tours will be included. You will receive your invitation mid-April. Call 720-865-3546 for more information.





## COVER STORY: Celebrate Earth Day at Chatfield Nature Preserve

We invite you to celebrate Earth Day with us at Chatfield Nature Preserve on Saturday, April 21 (the day before the official Earth Day). Staff and volunteers will lead work groups and demonstrations that will help maintain and improve Chatfield's important habitat.

### Schedule:

9:30 a.m. — Registration

10 a.m. — Education and instruction

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. — Participate in planned improvement projects, explore Chatfield while enjoying activities, or do both.

### Improvement Projects:

#### Wildflower Identification/Weed Removal

Learn which plants represent a healthy ecosystem and help remove those that don't. If you have them, please bring gloves and a weed-removing tool; otherwise, they will be provided for you.

### Build a Fence

The Hildebrand Historic Farm is being restored as a place to demonstrate farming and living technologies with little

negative impact to the environment. Help restore this piece of history.

### Activities and Demonstrations:

- Living with wildlife
- Demonstrations on "Green Gardening: tools, supplies and practices that promote healthy ecosystems"
- Watch as Boy Scouts work on earning their World Conservation Badges in the fields of soil, water, wildlife and wetland pond vegetation; understand how their work makes a difference
- Nature hikes geared for various interests and age groups
- Demonstrations on corn shelling, apple pressing and other farm activities

Admission to Chatfield Nature Preserve is free this day. Please dress for the weather and wear clothes you can get dirty in. Concessions will be available by Three Tomatoes Catering and entertainment will be provided. For more information, call 720-865-3544.

*Julie Loquidis, Interpretation Manager*

## DEER CREEK Discovery Camp



### A week of fun on the farm for ages 7-11 at Chatfield Nature Preserve

This summer we are inviting your child to join us for camp at the century-old farms of Chatfield Nature Preserve. Discover the sights, sounds and smells of a fun-filled, enriching program of activities on 350 acres of rural splendor.

Join us for a one-week session, June 18 through August 10. Registration opens April 2. Call 303-973-3705 for a brochure.

Chatfield Nature Preserve  
8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd. • Littleton, CO 80128

## KIDCAMP



### at the Gardens

Discover the wonderful world of plants in our gardens. Explore cultures, art, foods, gardening and games in conjunction with our Gardens of the World. Here are some examples of activities planned:

- Fingerprint a tree, make a rain forest in a bottle and play a game of tree trivia.
- Discover what plants and insects are edible delicacies in your own backyard and around the globe.
- Search the soil on a scavenger hunt, plant a pizza garden and create a worm bin.

This summer day camp is perfect for ages 7-12. KidCamp takes place July 23 through August 3, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please call 720-865-3610 to receive a brochure.



©Jim Havey

Chatfield Nature Preserve is an important sanctuary for both plants and animals. Join us in implementing several much-needed conservation/restoration projects at the Earth Day celebration.



## Fun with Plants

Celebrate this Earth Day by having some fun with plants. Here are a few suggestions:

- Dandelion curly-q: Split the stems of the flower and set them in water. The split stems will turn into beautiful curls and the flower will float on top.
- Crown of leaves: Use new maple leaves to make a crown for your head. Take two leaves and overlap them. Snap off the stem (petiole) and use it as a needle to tie the two leaves together. Keep threading leaves together until the crown fits around your head.
- Homegrown whistle: Hold an acorn between your thumbs at your knuckles and blow into the acorn with your lips spanning your knuckles.

Come to the Library for further instructions on these and many more fun plant projects.

*Susan Eubank, Senior Librarian*

### Ideas in this article came from the following books in the Helen Fowler Library:

Cutler, Katherine. 1969. *From Petals to Pinecones*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. New York.

Diehn, Gwen & Terry Krautwurst. 1995. *Kid Style Nature Crafts*. Sterling Publishing Co. New York. j TT 157 D54 1995

Eshmeyer, R. E. 1975. *Ask Any Vegetable*. Prentice-Hall. Englewood Cliffs, N.J. j TT 160 E845

Gjersvik, Maryanne. 1974. *Green Fun*. Chatham Press. Riverside, Conn. j TT 157 G547



## New Horizons for Chatfield Nature Preserve



©Jim Havey

Chatfield Nature Preserve first opened to the public in 1989, when the first Pumpkin Festival was held. Today, several events and educational classes are held at Chatfield for visitors of all ages.

Chatfield Nature Preserve, operated by Denver Botanic Gardens, is preparing for a new chapter in its history. Chatfield is best known for such well-attended events as the annual Pumpkin Festival and most recently, the Corn Maze. The size and open space at Chatfield are perfect for these popular family-oriented events. There is also the opportunity for quiet nature viewing along trails or in the open fields of Chatfield's 350 acres.

This spring, renovations at Chatfield will address the horticultural and ecological aspects that emphasize the beauty of the surrounding landscape. The Gardens is committed to the creation of scenic and educational areas, as well as making Chatfield as environmentally conscious and user friendly as possible.

Creating new perennial beds and revamping existing plantings to highlight the natural beauty of Colorado will be no small task. The look of Chatfield will become increasingly showy with the addition of many native wildflowers, including various species of *Penstemon*, *Achillea*, *Phlox* and *Verbena*. Perennial grasses will be used next to the wildflowers, providing beauty and structural diversity throughout the seasons.

The areas that surround the Visitor Center and its adjacent picnic area, as well as the areas near the Administration Building and Nature Center, will be the focus of this spring's activity. The renovation process began last fall, opening the way for dynamic new plantings and improved management of Chatfield's natural areas. A great new look for Chatfield Nature Preserve is underway. You can be a part of this renovation by coming to the Earth Day celebration at Chatfield Nature Preserve on April 21.

*Jeff Tejral, Chatfield Nature Preserve Agriculturist*





## Aspen Wildflower Weekend

July 20-23, 2001

Members are invited to our 9th Annual Wildflower Weekend, taking place in Aspen. On the way we'll stop at Mt. Goliath, operated by the Gardens, for a short hike to enjoy the alpine wildflowers and bristlecone pines. The trip will include visits to spectacular private gardens, hiking, entertainment and more. We'll also tour the Betty Ford Alpine Garden in Vail.

Our accommodations are in Snowmass at the Silver Tree Inn. This trip is rated "easy-moderate," meaning walking tours of short duration and distance can be expected, as well as hikes at tree line 1-2 miles in length. The price for this trip is \$795 per person based on double occupancy and includes: ground transportation, lodging, most meals, private receptions, entry fees, activities and guiding services. A \$300 deposit is required.

There's still time to take a trip with the Gardens this year. A Vancouver Escape will be offered from August 22-26 and A Deluxe Horticultural Safari to Kenya will take place September 30-October 13, with a Tanzania Extension from October 13-20. Please call Pam Rathke, Travel Coordinator, at 720-865-3527, for additional information or to register.



©Jim Havey

Membership rates help fund many activities at the Gardens, including garden renovations, such as the transformation of the Vegetable Garden into the French Kitchen Garden, which took place last year.

## New Membership Rates

Denver Botanic Gardens membership rates will increase for the first time in several years on May 1, 2001. The new rates better reflect the value of your membership at one of the country's finest botanic gardens. Your support helps us grow by expanding our outreach into the community, furthering conservation efforts and continuing to renovate and innovate our gardens.

### The new rates are:

Gardener: From \$30 to \$35

Landscaper: From \$40 to \$45

Arbor Circle: From \$55 to \$65

Botanist Club: From \$120 to 150 (\$12.50/month)

Conservator's Society: From \$240 to \$300 (\$25/month)

Perennial Partners: From \$500 to \$600 (\$50/month)

Seniors (age 65 and over) may also take \$10 off any level of membership, therefore, those of you at the Gardener and Landscaper levels will be paying exactly the same as when you renewed in 2000. The increase will apply to new members after May 1, and all renewals received after May 25.

## Tax Deductions for 2000

The tax deduction you may take depends on the amount you paid for the membership less its Fair Market Value. The Fair Market Value for 2000 for Gardener, Landscaper and Arbor Circle is \$10; Botanist Club is \$60; Conservator's Society is \$110; and Perennial Partners is \$213.



## Thank You for a Successful 2000

Our many supporters helped make 2000 a record-breaking year. Donations from individuals, corporations and private foundations were at an all time high. Year-end gifts made for a fitting close to a stellar year. We would like to extend a special thank you to all of our year-end supporters including an anonymous donor, Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Connors, the El Pomar Foundation, James E. Flor, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Honnen, the Joseph Beal McAlpine Estate, Mr. and Mrs. Edward G. Panter, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taplin, William and Mickey Thurston and the Vida F. Ellison Trust who made significant gifts in December.



Money raised from events, like the Plant & Book Sale on May 11 and 12, help fund our education, horticulture and conservation projects.

## Memorials and Tributes

### **In honor of Rebecca Haller**

Anchor Center for Blind Children

### **In memory of Nancy W. White**

Sparkie Cannon and Family

### **In memory of Mitten H. Gates**

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Olson

### **In memory of John Regner**

Ms. Margaret Wallace

### **In memory of Betsey B. Tracy**

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Washburne

### **In memory of Maxine Hartner Sawyer**

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Dr. and Mrs. Robert B. Sawyer

### **In memory of Nancy Newton Davis**

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Sheridan

Ms. Anne H. Weckbaugh

### **In memory of Giles and Mary Filley**

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Ms. Ruth H. Brown

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Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Leuthold

### **In memory of Kim Sterne**

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Sterne

### **In memory of Anna Smole**

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### **In memory of Robert Hildreth**

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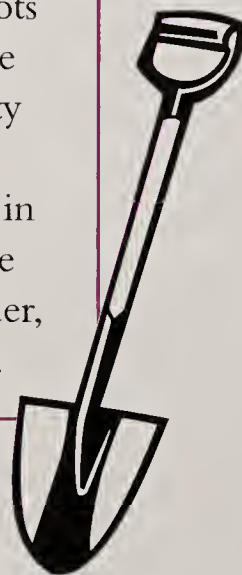
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## Be a Part of Our Community Gardens

Members have the special privilege of being able to rent out Community Garden plots for \$55. This fee includes tools, vegetable seeds, mulch, compost and a Community Gardens newsletter. The plots are 150 square feet in size and became available in late March, so rent yours now. Call Estee Fleming, Interactive Gardens Team Leader, at 720-865-3611, for more information.



### Denver Botanic Gardens

1005 York St., Denver, CO 80206

[www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

October-April Hours — Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

General information	720-865-3500
TDD	720-865-3745
Gift Shop	720-865-3595
Helen Fowler Library	720-865-3570
Sun.- Thurs., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
Dr. Green plant information	720-865-3575
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### Chatfield Nature Preserve

**303-973-3705**

Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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